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Last-ditch bid to persuade Assad

Khaddafi in Syria; Benjedid stays away

BAGHDAD, May 26, (Agencies): Arab leaders started arriving here today for an extraordinary Arab summit slated to open May 28.

The first to arrive were Sudanese military leader Gen. Omar Ahmed Hassan Al Bashir and the presidents of Mauritania, Somalia and Djibouti, Maawiya Ould Sidi Ahmed Al Tayeh, Mohammed Siad Barre and Hassan Goulied.

The leaders were received at the airport by Iraqi President Saddam Hussein and his top aides in the government and the ruling Baath Party. Officials said most Arab heads of state are expected tomorrow to arrive before the opening of the summit called by the PLO to discuss emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and other threats to Arab security. Eighteen Arab countries and the Palestine Liberation Organisation are taking part in the summit which is boycotted by Syria and Lebanon.

North and South Yemen, after their official merger May 26, are attending as one delegation. Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi, on his way to the summit, stopped over in Damascus today in an attempt to persuade Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to attend. Arab diplomatic sources said Khaddafi was making a last-ditch effort to persuade Assad to attend.

Kazma win

KAZMA won the Amir's Cup football tournament yesterday with a 5-2 victory over Al Arabi in a penalty shootout at the Qadisiya Stadium. The game ended 1-1 after normal time. Both teams had failed to score in the normal time. Kazma managed to convert four penalties while Al Arabi managed to score only one.

attend or send a representative. Syrian officials declined to give any information on Assad-Khaddafi talks. Assad, a bitter foe of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, has so far refused to attend the summit despite pressure from Egypt and Jordan.

For the last two weeks, Iraq and Syria have halted the daily bitter media campaigns against each other. But the Syrian media ignored the summit preparatory meeting of foreign ministers which Syria boycotted.

Lebanon's shaky, Syrian-backed government, followed Assad's lead. Arab diplomatic sources here said several diplomatic attempts are under way to convince Assad to attend or to send another top Syrian official to participate in the two-day gathering and avoid a clear display of Arab disunity.

In another development, the Algeria news agency said President Chadli Benjedid will not attend the Arab summit opening in Baghdad. It said the Algerian delegation would be headed by Rabah Bitat, president of the national assembly.

A brief APS announcement gave no explanation but Algerian officials have repeatedly said a summit without Assad makes no sense. Chadli told Arab lawyers last Sunday he had no objection in principle to Baghdad as a venue, but said the summit had been ill-prepared.



Princess Stephanie of Monaco is kissed by her fiancé Jean-Yves La Fur as they enjoy the time trials for the Monaco Grand Prix from the balcony of an apartment yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Situation 'dangerous and explosive'



Arafat waves documents as he answers reporters questions at the UN in Geneva. (Reuters wirephoto)

'We've had enough'

Arafat calls for UN sanctions

GENEVA, May 26, (Agencies): The President of Palestine, Yasser Arafat, warned the international community today that Israel was preparing for its next war, and that the forthcoming Arab summit in Baghdad would prove a turning point in the history of Arab world.

In a hard-hitting address to a crowded international press corps, President Arafat said the patience of the Palestinian people was running out in the face of continued repression and killings, which had shattered every aspect of the lives of the Palestinian people.

"We have had enough killings, enough torture. The tragic situation cannot continue any longer. We are running out of patience. The sufferings are beyond human endurance," Arafat said.

Arafat said the situation had become "dangerous and explosive" in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem, which were occupied territories, where the law and order should be kept in accordance with the stipulations of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

"We are asking for protection of our people, a permanent UN force for an interim period - until peace is achieved. We are seeking international protection against the crimes being perpetrated by Israel. We are seeking an end to our people's suffering," the Palestinian leader reiterated.

The intifada, Arafat maintained, will continue "for the sake of peace." Elaborating on his observation that Israel was preparing for the next war in the Middle East, Arafat noted that only recently the Israeli military chief of staff had said that "we should reoccupy Lebanon."

Arafat urged the United Nations to impose sanctions against Israel if it continues to refuse all peace initiatives. Speaking in an interview with Cable News Network (CNN) from Geneva, Arafat charged that Israel is disregarding all peace efforts because of continued American backing, especially economic and military aid.

Meanwhile, UN Security Council emergency session on the latest violence between Israelis and Arabs adjourned today with Israel facing heightened pressure for its tough handling of unrest. No action was taken at the meeting, which resumes Tuesday in New York. An Arab diplomat said a council decision could be "one week, two weeks" off.

Arab League Ambassador Clovis Makoud said the United States had tried to launch the idea in Geneva of sending an international fact-finding mission to the occupied territories, but backed out today under Israeli pressure.

The US State Department earlier said it was ready to discuss having the Security Council send a temporary fact-finding mission to the occupied territories, but backed out today under Israeli pressure.

That put Washington publicly at odds with Israel, which said it would bar any observer team. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir says UN observers will not be allowed in the Israeli-occupied territories. Even a visit from the UN secretary-general might not be welcome, the Foreign Ministry added.

Opposition politicians have accused Benazir's 17-month-old government of failing to curb the violence in her home province. Benazir acknowledged that the provincial government has not done enough to curb the escalating violence and lawlessness.

UK deports Kuwaitis

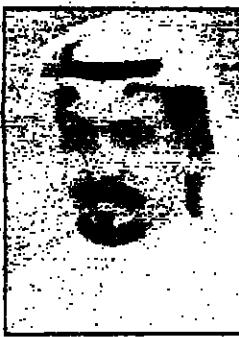
16 detained in Bradford

LONDON, May 26, (Reuters): British police said today that four Arabs arrested under anti-terrorist laws had been released without charge but two Kuwaitis would be deported.

They would not comment on newspaper reports linking the two Kuwaitis to death threats against British author Salman Rushdie. The Kuwaitis were among six Arabs arrested on Tuesday. Two of the Arabs were quickly released without charge and two more, identified by the Iranian news agency Irna as Bahrainis, were freed last night.

Deportation orders were served on the two Kuwaitis yesterday on the grounds their presence was "not conducive to public good on grounds of national security," the Home Office said.

Candidates Speak



By Lima Al Khalafawi and Diana Abou Haidar
Arab Times staff

ELECTION campaigning is expected to peak in the coming two weeks with a big number of young candidates entering the political arena for the first time.

Some of the 450 candidates are representatives of their tribes, others are ex-members of the National Assembly, while the rest are government employees, and businessmen.

Most hopefuls depend on their assistants locally known as election keys for approaching voters in diwanis or tents especially set up to accommodate larger numbers of people.

"So far I have visited 26 out of 54 diwanis in Rumaythiya where I sensed a positive attitude towards the elections," said Nabeel Al Ghoraiba running for Rumaythiya.

Ghoraiba's slogan is "One Family." In his campaign leaflet, he vows to protect the concept of consolidated family that embraces all Kuwaitis and dictates certain co-operative methods in solving problems. He also promises to take care of the people in his constituency as if they were members of his own family.

The Counterfeit and Foreign Office at the Central Bank calls for more studies about delinquency among Kuwaiti youth and increasing social welfare, in addition to suggesting new ways for reviving the national economy.

Outside his tent in Rawda, Jaber Salem Al Hajiri said that new blood into Kuwait's democratic life is a positive sign. "These young candidates have the solid basis of education and patriotism."

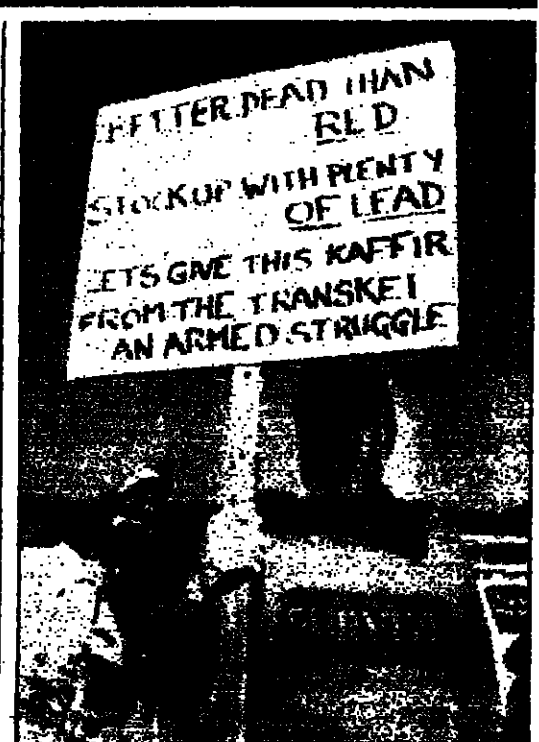
Hajiri has a set of recommendations for improving procedures of National Assembly sessions. He refused to discuss them with the Arab Times explaining that it would be too early to do that.

"I'm planning for an open debate to discuss the parliamentary experience from 1985 until now," Hajiri said adding that personal differences between deputies and government officials were behind most of the tension in sessions. "I'm for interrogating ministers but against the way it was carried out in the last National Assembly."

Monopoly of power renounced

BELGRADE, May 26, (AP): Yugoslavia's deeply split Communist Party ended a national congress today by calling for multi-party elections and formally renouncing its monopoly on power.

Nevertheless, the delegates approved a statement waiving the party's leading role in society and calling for free federal elections.



Whites protest

A pro-apartheid demonstrator protests against South African President F.W. de Klerk's talks with nationalist leader Nelson Mandela, during a rally yesterday attended by about 100,000 people at the Voortrekker Monument, outside Pretoria. (Reuters wirephoto)

(See Page 5)

Second Iraq note to Iran

Defence council meets

NICOSIA, May 26, (AP): Iran's Supreme Council of Defence met today to discuss a second letter sent by Iraq in correspondence between the two foes aimed at reviving stalled peace talks.

Tehran television, monitored in Nicosia, said the session was headed by President Hashemi Rafsanjani, and that all other members of the council were present.

Also attending the session were Iran's representatives at the United Nations offices in New York and Geneva, the television said.

The report was the first that Tehran had received a second letter from Baghdad. The television did not say when the letter was sent or received.

Earlier it was confirmed that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had sent an initial message to Tehran calling for revival of the deadlocked peace talks.

The television quoted Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Manouchehr Moutaki as saying yesterday that Iran had given a "positive response" to Saddam's first letter and had agreed to resume stalled peace talks with Iraq.

The full contents of the correspondence between Tehran and Baghdad have not been disclosed. But according to press reports in Tehran and Kuwait, Baghdad has called for bilateral talks, and conceded that the sovereignty of the Shait Al Arab waterway is negotiable.

Kuwait-India line cut

KUWAIT, May 26, (Kuna): A technical malfunction at the satellite station in Bombay had impaired the direct telephone line between Kuwait and India, an official source at the Communications Ministry said today.

The source added that most of the calls are being conducted through the long-distance call division. Apologising to its long-distance callers for this sudden malfunction, the ministry said that it will be repaired by the end of the week. (See Page 11)

Aftershocks in Sudan

KHARTOUM, May 26, (AP): Last weekend's major earthquake in southern Sudan and a continuing swarm of very strong aftershocks has left 31 killed and 300,000 people without shelter, government officials and rebel officials said today.

Sudan relief and rehabilitation association liaison officers in Nairobi, Kenya, said 30 people were killed at Kuon-Wei near the city of Bor where many houses slid into the River Nile.

James Nduku said another person was killed and two buildings collapsed in the village of Lafan near Torit. He said many cattle, sheep and goats were also killed by landslide and rolling stones.

Bor is 669 miles (1080 km) north of Khartoum and Torit is 793 miles (1280 km) north of Khartoum.

Earlier story Page 8

18 killed, 200 wounded in gun battle in Pakistan; police blame MQM

HYDERABAD, May 26, (AP): Security forces fought pitched battles today with residents of Hyderabad's oldest and poorest district, killing at least 18 people and wounding at least 200, police and witnesses said.

Police and doctors at a local hospital said they expected the death toll to rise as ambulances picked up bodies that lined the narrow streets of the old walled city, a maze of mud brick houses and shanties. Police blamed the fighting on a militant faction of the Mohajir Qaumi Movement.

The MQM is demanding recognition as Pakistan's fifth nationality, along with the Punjabis, Pathans, Sindhis and Baluch. Witnesses said today's battles erupted as security forces moved into the old city searching for weapons.

Residents, most of them Mohajirs, apparently thought rival Sindhi nationalists planned to attack and opened fire with automatic weapons, witnesses said. At least seven security troops were injured before returning fire, they said.

The gun battles, which continued for more than two hours, caused authorities to cancel a scheduled two-hour temporary lifting of a curfew.

About 2,000 paramilitary troops, riot police and rangers have been patrolling the streets of Hyderabad, the second largest city in Sind, to try to contain the violence. Army-supervised curfews have become a way of life for the city's three million residents.

According to official count, at least 66 people have been killed and hundreds more wounded in ethnic violence and indiscriminate shootings in the city since May 15.

In Karachi, ethnic strife and political rivalries have also led to fighting. The main combatants are Benazir's supporters and MQM members.

Opposition politicians have accused Benazir's 17-month-old government of failing to curb the violence in her home province. Benazir acknowledged that the provincial government has not done enough to curb the escalating violence and lawlessness.

That put Washington publicly at odds with Israel, which said it would bar any observer team. Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir says UN observers will not be allowed in the Israeli-occupied territories. Even a visit from the UN secretary-general might not be welcome, the Foreign Ministry added.

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'Coups fears help curb Philippine growth'

MANILA, May 26, (Reuters): Coups rumours that deter investors are helping to stunt economic growth in the Philippines, already battling a drought and electric power shortages, a government minister says.

"We cannot deny that persistent rumours of another coup send negative signals in the market that tend to under-

mine our growth prospects," Secretary of Economic Planning Cayetano Paderanga told a committee probing a coup attempt last December.

President Corason Aquino has quelled six army uprisings since she took power in a popular revolt in 1986.

A recent upsurge of political violence in the capital has fanned stock market fears

of a serious setback in economic growth, sending shares into a tailspin for the sixth month.

On Friday, two more Philippine soldiers were killed in the second ambush on military men in Manila in three days.

Paderanga said yesterday a growth projection in gross national product this

year had been scaled back to five per cent from an earlier forecast of six per cent, mainly because of high interest rates, a widening trade gap and frequent power outages.

He said the economy was not headed towards a recession, as some investors speculated.

Lawyer testifies Swiss accounts

Imelda's trial

NEW YORK, May 26, (AP): Imelda Marcos reportedly met recently with a lawyer hired to fight the Philippine government's effort to seize billions of dollars she and her late husband allegedly stashed in Swiss banks, a witness testified yesterday.

Sergio Salvioni, a lawyer representing the government in Manila, told a court jury he was told of the New York meeting by Bruno Depreux, who he said had identified himself as representing Mrs Marcos, the former Philippine first lady.

"He said he met Ferdinand and Imelda Marcos in Honolulu two times and he met Imelda Marcos one time here in the Continental United States," Salvioni said. "The last time was more or less two to three weeks ago, here in New York."



Imelda

Under questioning by assistant US attorney Charles Labella, Salvioni quoted Depreux as saying he originally was hired to represent both Mrs Marcos and her husband after Marcos' ouster as president of the Philippines in early 1986. Marcos died last year in Hawaiian exile.

"And now he represents Mrs Marcos and her heirs," Salvioni said.

Mrs Marcos is accused of having helped her husband steal more than \$220 million from their country's treasury, using the money to support a luxury lifestyle and investment including four secretly purchased New York office buildings.

Salvioni, a member of the Swiss Parliament, flew to New York from Geneva to testify. Prosecutors hoped he would help

prove the Marcoses use secret accounts in at least eight Swiss banks to hold some of the embezzled funds during Marcos' 20-year reign.

US District Court Judge John F. Keenan allowed Salvioni to testify before jurors on certain details after rejecting defence protests that his information would be "explosive and prejudicial" to Mrs Marcos.

Keenan turned aside defence arguments that Salvioni's remarks quoting Depreux were "hearsay" and therefore inadmissible, but barred any references to actual details of the bank accounts.

Mrs Marcos, wearing her customary black, showed no visible emotion as the Swiss lawyer explained the efforts by President Corason Aquino's government to gain access to the Swiss accounts.

Reds hit Attack near Clark

MANILA, May 26, (UPI): Suspected communist hitmen fired on a jeep, killing a Filipino woman but leaving the Australian driver unharmed outside the US Clark Air Base hours before travel restrictions were eased today for US troops, police said.

Meanwhile, officials announced the deployment of an additional force of 3,000 troops in the capital following a spate of ambushes and grenade attacks that have left 10 people dead in the last five days.

"We have now here a breakdown of law and order," said Maj. Gen. Cesar Nazareno, chief of the national police, after meeting with his commanders to assess the security situation in Metropolitan Manila. "I want this anti-terrorist group operational by Monday," he said.

Police said Thomas Brian of Rosebud, Melbourne, and his Filipino girlfriend, Judith Ochia, 25, were driving along MacArthur highway outside Clark, 50 miles (80 km) north of Manila, at 11 pm yesterday when four men stopped their vehicle.

Upon noticing that the men were armed, Brian stepped on the gas and ducked but the men opened fire, hitting Ochia in several parts of the head and body and killing her, police said. Brian escaped unhurt, they said.

Police said Brian might have been mistaken for an American by the gunmen believed to be communist rebels.

The attack came hours before officials at Clark and Subic Bay naval station relaxed travel restrictions for some 40,000 US servicemen, their dependents and Defence Department personnel.

Beginning today, Americans were allowed in the entertainment districts outside the bases from 7 am to 7 pm.

After airmen John H. Raven, 19, of Delta Junction, Alaska, and James C. Green, 20, of Craig, Colorado were killed May 13, US officials cancelled all leaves and liberty for Americans stationed in the Philippines.

The communist New People's Army (NPA) has claimed responsibility for the slayings of Raven and Green and vowed to continue attacking Americans until Washington dismantles its military bases in the Philippines.

Police also said Australian and British bar owners have been placed on the NPA hit list for allegedly acting as conduits for American money to fund pro-secession rallies in the liberty cities of Angeles and Olongapo.

Authorities arrested a communist rebel who admitted involvement in the ambush-slaying of a constabulary colonel three days ago, officials said today.

Capital command chief Brig. Gen. Mariano Filart identified the suspect as Louie Mendoza, 26, a member of the guerrilla hit squad operating in the capital, who was arrested last night in Manila's Paco district.

Filart said Mendoza admitted he was one of those who planned the ambush of Col Reynaldo Dino, head of the constabulary personnel division, while the officer was being driven to work Wednesday in suburban Kalookan town.

Poverty-curing heads wanted

KAMPALA, May 26, (Reuters): Cobras and bald men — beware of fortune-hunters.

Word has spread in southwestern Uganda that their heads contain magic stones which bestow riches forever.

That was enough for some young men in the rural district of Rakai who went hunting the poverty-curing heads, Uganda's Catholic daily Munno reported today.

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Kathmandu march

Supporters of one faction of the Nepal Communist Party march in Kathmandu on Friday to demand the formation of a constitutional reform committee. The procession of about 1,000 demonstrators later met with other faction members in a mass meeting of several thousand people (Reuters wirephoto)

Nepal to get Chinese arms

KATHMANDU, May 26, (UPI): Nepal, a nation locked by two Asian giants, will receive a fresh consignment of Chinese arms despite objections from its other neighbour India, a senior official said today.

"Some percentage of arms will be arriving shortly. India is aware of this," the official told United Press International. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the arms would include assault rifles and anti-aircraft guns.

The arms are a part of an agreement between Nepal's previous government headed by King Birendra and China.

The arms agreement angered the Indian government which said Nepal's decision to buy Chinese arms violated the India-Nepal treaty of 1965. Indian objections in part led to India's economic embargo against Nepal in March last year causing enormous hardship and shortages.

Hopes for an improvement in India-Nepal relations were raised with the formation last month of Nepal's first multi-party government in 29 years. The new government, which marked the near-end of King Birendra's absolute powers, offered to resolve Nepal's differences with India.

However, the arrival of Chinese arms may stir ill feelings again, especially as interim government Prime Minister Krishna Prasad Bhattarai prepares to visit New Delhi next month.

Bhattarai will go to India to resolve the trade dispute which has resulted in a 15-month economic blockade of Nepal.

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Taxi provides petrol to plane

ISTANBUL, May 26, (Reuters): A Turkish pilot running low on fuel startled tourists when he landed on a road in a Greek holiday island — then took off for home with petrol provided by a taxi driver.

Turkey's semi-official Anatolian news agency said today that the civilian pilot, flying a light plane, lost his way on Friday and found himself over the island of Lesbos, a few miles off the Turkish coast.

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Elvis committed suicide: biographer

NEW YORK, May 26, (AP) A controversial biographer who stunned Elvis Presley fans in 1981 with his revelations about the drug habits of the rock 'n' roll king now says Presley committed suicide with a huge drug overdose.

"It's the dream gone to nightmare. It's perfect. It's archetypal rags to riches to rot story," writer Albert Goldman said yesterday as the presses were rolling on a Life magazine article in which he makes the claim.

The story is getting prominent display in the June issue.

"Thirteen years after the death of Elvis Presley new evidence points to an inescapable conclusion. Suicide" reads a copy of the article, which was released in advance to reporters.

A private autopsy conducted following Presley's death in August 1977 put the cause of death as a heart attack.

Graceland, Presley's mansion, did not return a telephone call yesterday seeking comment on Goldman's claim.

Goldman stunned and infuriated millions of Presley fans around the world with his 1981 biography, "Elvis," which

portrayed the king as an obese, impotent drug addict incapable of taking care of himself.

Later, an unflattering Goldman book on the late John Lennon had the same effect on his fans.

Goldman had written in "Elvis" that the singer died of an accidental overdose.

But his conversations with David Stanley, Elvis' stepbrother and a fixture at Graceland, convinced Goldman that Presley had actually killed himself.

Stanley, one of the first people to see Elvis dead, says he knew all along it was

suicide but had trouble accepting it.

"Several things convinced me... He was too intelligent to overdose. He knew the PDR -- Physicians' Desk Reference -- inside and out," Stanley said yesterday at a New York news conference.

The PDR is a standard reference book on the effects of various medicines.

The day he died, Elvis had consumed three packets of assorted drugs at once along with some Codeine; the doses were usually spread out over eight hours, Stanley said.

Battle over embryos

Husband against donation

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee, May 26, (AP) A woman's decision to donate seven frozen embryos she won in a custody fight, rather than use them to become pregnant, does not end the battle, her ex-husband said yesterday.

"I am totally against it," Junior Lewis Davis, who produced the sperm for the embryos, said of his ex-wife's decision to donate them to another childless couple.

"There is just no way I am going to donate them," Davis said.

"I feel that's my right. If there was a child from them, then I would be a parent to it. And I don't want a child out there to be mine if I can't be a parent to it."

Davis, 31, and his ex-wife, Mary Sue Davis Stowe, 29, have been locked in a legal battle over the four-to-eight-cell embryos conceived through in vitro fertilisation in 1988 while they were still married.

In the only contested issue in their divorce, Blount County circuit Judge W. Dale Young ruled in September that temporary custody of the embryos should go to Mrs Stowe, who at the time said she wanted to try to bring a child to term.

The judge, taking the unprecedented step of ruling that "life begins at conception," accorded the embryos the same rights as children. He said it would be in the embryos' best interests to be with Mrs Stowe.

Davis has appealed the decision, which touched

off a nation-wide debate on its impact on reproductive rights. The Tennessee court of appeals scheduled oral arguments for June 6.

Mrs Stowe, who agreed she would not try to become pregnant with the embryos until the case is settled, filed a response Thursday to Davis' appeal.

In it, her attorney Kurt Erlenbach wrote that if the court rules in her favour "her intention... is not to implant the embryos. She wants authority to donate the embryos so another childless couple may use them."

"If faced with the options of implantation or destruction through non-use, (Mrs Stowe) would strongly argue for the right to implant the embryos," Erlenbach's brief said.

"The former Mrs Davis seeks in this case only to preserve what she has created while Davis seeks to destroy the potential for life he very willingly and intentionally created."

But Davis said, "that was very willingly and intentionally only on the grounds of marriage in trying to produce a child."

"They need to be disposed of. In my view, they are not life. I realize they are the potential for life, no matter how small the percentage (of successful pregnancy) is. But they are not life."

Davis said his position has nothing to do with concern over my potential legal obligations to children born from the embryos. "It's really that it is my right to decide if I want to become a parent," he said.

PEOPLE AND PLACES

LULEA, Sweden: A young drunken Swede who was refused air passage took revenge on one of the airline's aircraft Friday causing \$0 million kroner (\$8.5 million) of damage, police said.

The man, in his early 30s, climbed into the empty Swedair Saab 340 at Lulea airport, 1,000 km north of Stockholm, and pulled the landing gear.

The plane, which had been due to take off one hour later, bellyflopped to the ground causing an estimated kroner 50 million (\$8.5 million) worth of damage to the undercarriage, police said.

Lulea police found the man unhurt in the back of the collapsed plane. (UPI)

FORTH WORTH, Texas: An armless woman who could swim, play the drums and even change a baby's diaper with her feet has died after she was dragged by a horse.

Stacey McIntire Conner suffered severe head injuries and died Wednesday at Harris Methodist Fort Worth hospital, family members said.

The 22-year-old college student, who learned to ride at an early age, was feeding her 2-year-old filly, with the horse's lead rope tied around her waist, before the accident. (AP)

HARTFORD, Connecticut: A fortuneteller and her daughter preyed on troubled people's fears in a fraud scheme that bilked victims out of \$275,000, a judge said before imposing stiff prison terms.

Gardenia Ephraim, 44, received a 20-year sentence Thursday and her daughter Mary Ann, 23, was ordered to serve a 15-year term by Judge David Barry.

They were convicted April 17 of larceny, conspiracy and racketeering. (AP)

CHICAGO: A federal appeals court has ruled barroom strip-teasers are protected by the first amendment, therefore, an Indiana public indecency statute cannot be enforced against strip joints, court records disclosed Friday said.

The 7th US Circuit Court of Appeals, in a 7-4 opinion rendered Thursday, ruled Indiana's indecency laws may not be applied to a South Bend nightclub. In an unusual move, the case was reviewed by the entire 11-member appeals bench rather than by a three-judge panel. (UPI)

MILWAUKEE: Two women convicted of attempting a sacrificial ax murder as a way to bring Jack the Ripper back to life were sentenced Friday to five years in prison.

Milwaukee county circuit Judge William D. Gardner sentenced Catherine A. Lipscham, 23, and Ramona E. Barry, 28, for intending to cut a man's body into pieces, then eating his kidneys. (AP)

WASHINGTON: Scientists have discovered that sea turtles use a unique compass, relying on the Earth's magnetic field and wave motion to find their way as they roam the seas, the National Science Foundation reported on Friday.

The turtles accomplish epic navigational feats, travelling up to 1,000 miles (1,600 km) or more between feeding and nesting sites; how they are able to do so has long mystified researchers. (Reuters)

GLENDAL, California: Actor Viv Taylor, who played Mel the crusty diner owner of the old Alice television series, died at home of a heart attack Friday, his agent said. He was 60.

Taylor, who has had a history of heart trouble, including triple bypass surgery in 1983, died in his sleep, said his agent and friend of 20 years, Fred Amsel.

Rescue workers took Taylor to Glendale Adventist Hospital but there was no chance of reviving him, he said.

CHARLESTON, South Carolina: Each year at this time, Charleston throws a city-wide celebration of the arts known as the Spoleto Festival USA.

But this season, the festival, one of the most ambitious in its 14-year history, takes on added importance. It is showing the

King peace prize

Gorby to receive award

ATLANTA, May 26, (AP) Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has been named as the 1991 recipient of the Martin Luther King Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize.

The award will be presented to Gorbachev on June 1 at the Soviet embassy in Washington, said Corretta Scott King, chief executive officer of the King Centre and widow of the slain civil rights leader for whom the prize is named.

"No world leader has done more than President Gorbachev to de-escalate the arms race and pave the way for greater democracy and economic freedom around the world," Mrs King said yesterday.

The annual award includes a medal bearing the likeness of King, a citation and a \$1,000 stipend.

The '91 award is being presented early so that it can be given to Gorbachev during his US visit, said King Centre spokesman Steve Klein.

Raisa Gorbachev will visit the Library of Congress next Thursday during the superpower summit to formally open an exhibit of historic Russian manuscripts, the library said yesterday.

Among the 200 others expected to attend the reception are Vice President Dan Quayle's wife, Marilyn and Sen Clairborne Pell. First Lady Barbara Bush may also attend.

Mrs Gorbachev will be shown some American artifacts, including letters written by George Washington, and will get a demonstration of the library's computer data collection system and a look at the library's main reading room.



Russian art sale

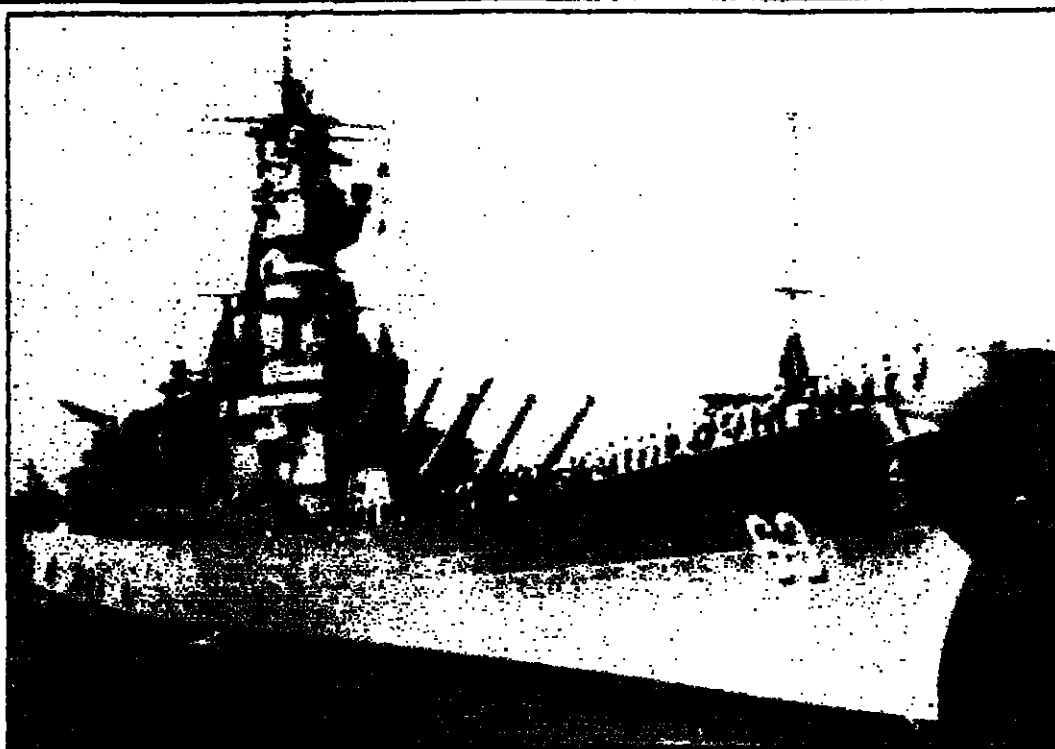
Sotheby's agents take telephone bids during a sale of Russian avant-garde art sale May 23. Above them is 'An Idea in the Air' by Frenchman Jean-Charles Blais, to be included in tomorrow's sale of post-war and contemporary art. (Reuters wire-photo)

world that Charleston has recovered from the ravages of hurricane Hugo.

The festival, which was introduced here in 1977 by composer Gian Carlo Menotti, was opening at mid-day with speeches and a brass band on the steps of Charleston city hall. (AP)

NEW YORK: In a potential departure from age-old Jewish tradition, reform Judaism is considering removing barriers to admission of homosexuals to the rabbinate.

Recommendations to that effect, a copy of which were obtained Friday, are to go before the annual meeting of the Central Conference of American Rabbis representing reform rabbis, June 24-28 in Seattle. (AP)



USS Iowa sabotage ruled out

Congressional investigators announced Friday that independent tests did not support a navy finding that sabotage caused the 1988 explosion that killed 47 sailors aboard the USS Iowa.

The congressional report, which came a day after the navy re-opened its investigation, said the explosion could have resulted from gunpowder bags being rammed inside the ship's guns at "higher than normal speeds."

The report was presented to the Senate Armed Services Committee by the General Accounting Office, which investigated the navy's controversial finding that gunner's mate Clayton Hartwig probably sabotaged the battleship in the

April 19, 1989, explosion.

The GAO is the investigating arm of Congress.

Senate Armed Services Committee chairman Sam Nunn said the GAO report "cast grave doubts on the navy's findings" that foreign material had been found in the gun barrel.

After a four-month probe, the navy contended in September that it had found no technical reason for the explosion. But the service admitted it only had circumstantial evidence for its finding since all the witnesses had died. Shown above 1988 file photo of the battleship USS Missouri. (Reuters wirephoto)

Killer sobbed in emergency call

Parents murder case

BEVERLY HILLS, California, May 26, (AP) Two brothers charged with the shotgun slayings of their affluent parents wailed hysterically in an emergency telephone call reporting the murders.

The recording was made after the Aug 20 slaying of multi-millionaire entertainment executive Jose Menendez and wife, Kitty.

It was released after news media attorneys obtained a court order requiring that it be made public.

The emotional two-minute call appears to have been made by the slain couple's elder son, Lyle 22, who has been charged with his brother, Erik, 19, in the murders. Prosecutors say greed was the motive.

Superior court judge James

Albracht ordered the audio tape release, along with a videotape documenting a police search of the home of the Menendez brothers' psychologist.

But psychologist Jerome Oziel on Thursday won an emergency appellate court stay blocking release of the videotape.

"I believe that release of the search warrant videotape... would be a complete violation of my family's constitutional right to privacy," Oziel said.

The court of appeal asked for written arguments on the matter by May 29.

The brothers' defence counsel opposed the release of the audio tape but did not appeal it. It recorded dispatchers trying to calm down a sobbing, screaming man and determine what happened.

US army jet crashes, sets homes on fire

PEARSON, Georgia May 26, (AP) A military jet crashed yesterday into a neighbourhood in southern Georgia, setting fire to at least two homes, authorities said.

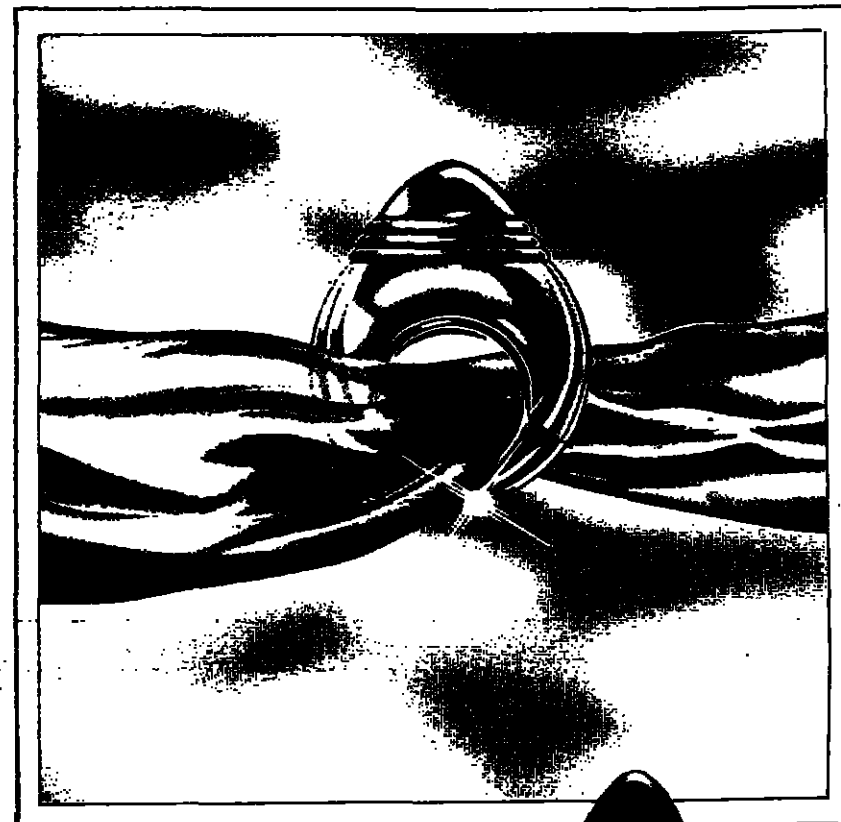
There were conflicting reports on casualties. Kathleen Guthrie, executive secretary at the Atkinson County Sheriff's Department, reported at least three deaths, but she later said she could not confirm any deaths.

The F-16A fighter jet was on a training flight from Moody Air Force Base near Valdosta to Lake George weapons range in Florida when it crashed, Moody officials said.

The pilot was the only occupant of the plane, and his condition was unknown, public affairs officer Dee Tait said.

"We heard the explosion; it was a helluva explosion," said Martha White, owner of the Country Kitchen restaurant near the crash site.

More than a perfume, a jewel...



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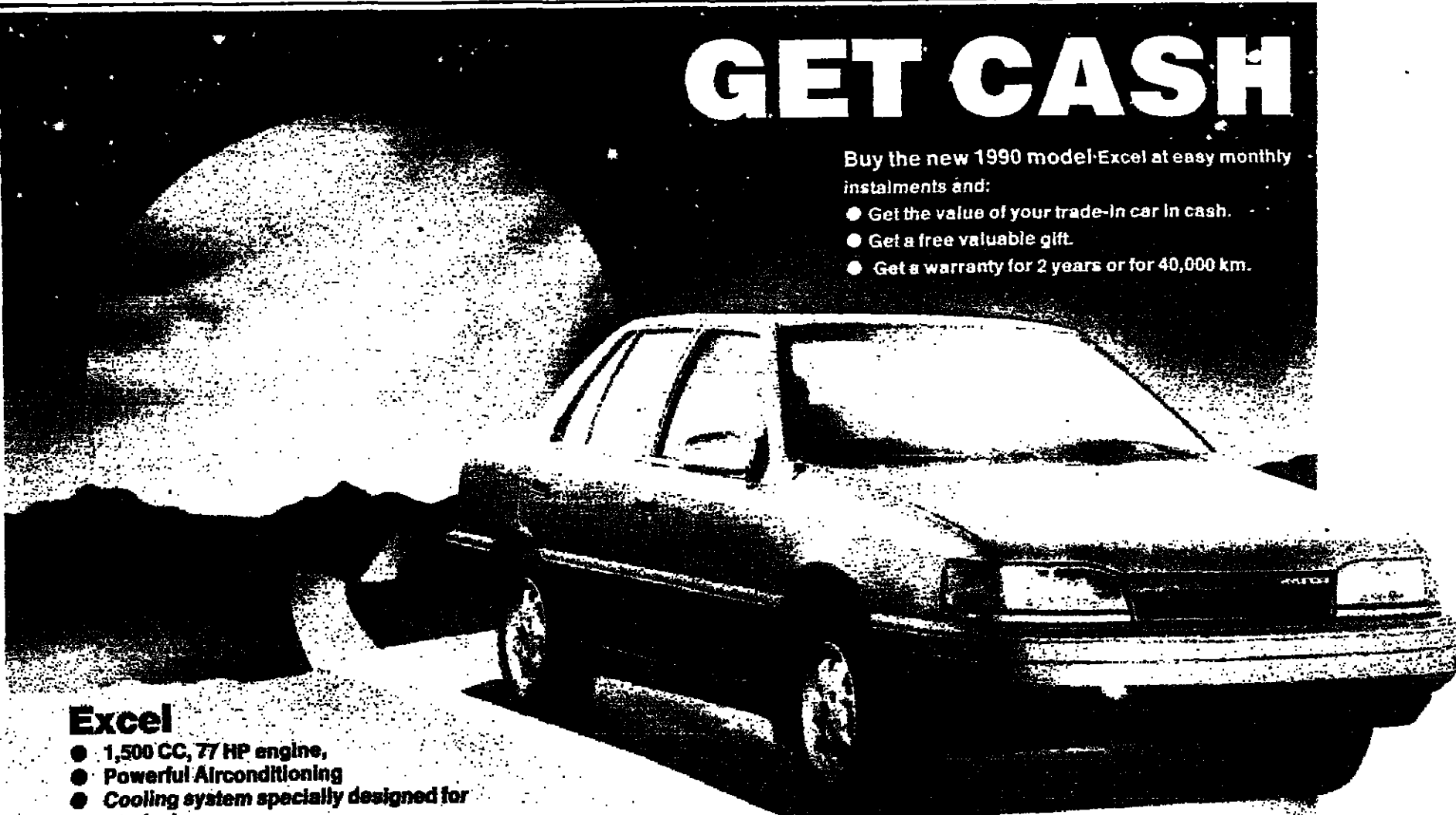
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HYUNDAI
Cars that make sense

Wave of bombings kill 27 in Colombia

Two days prior to presidential elections

BOGOTA, Colombia, May 26. (AP) A wave of bombings and murders in the cocaine capital Medellin two days prior to presidential elections has claimed 27 lives and injured 27 people, police said yesterday.

As pre-election carnage grew worse, a leading presidential candidate proposed that cocaine be legalised in the United States and other countries.

The candidate, Alvaro Gomez, said legalisation would wrest profits from the drug traffickers who use the money to terrorise Colombia.

"The legalisation of cocaine in the world would resolve the problem in Colombia," Gomez told foreign reporters at a news conference in Bogota yesterday morning.

Gomez is a centre-right candidate for the National Salvation

Movement. He broke away from the Conservative Party earlier this year.

Hours before Gomez spoke with reporters, the northwestern city of Medellin was stunned by a new wave of terrorism apparently by traffickers.

Medellin Mayor Juan Gomez ordered a 10 pm to 4 am curfew until further notice.

Since Thursday afternoon there have been killings in three separate incidents, two bomb attacks and three assassinations of police officers in the northwestern city a police spokeswoman there told the Associated Press.

Government officials say powerful drug lords are stepping up their terror attacks to scare people away from the polls on Sunday.

Military and police vigilance has been stepped up to cope with the seemingly endless nightmare of violence.

All public schools and most private schools were closed yesterday in Bogota for fear of bombings.

Five bodies, with hands and feet bound, were found yesterday on a highway in southeast Medellin, the police spokesman said. The police were not able to identify the victims.

A 44-pound (20 kg) bomb exploded yesterday morning at an office building in a wealthy Medellin neighbourhood, she said. Three people were hurt and nearby apartments and stores were damaged.

On Thursday, a powerful car bomb blew up at a police post outside the luxurious Intercontinental Hotel, killing five people and injuring 22, police said.

Eight bombs have exploded in Colombia in the last two weeks killing 34 people and injuring more than 320.

The spokeswoman said unidentified assassins stormed a Medellin office Thursday night, shooting dead three men and two women.

That same night four people were murdered in northeast Medellin in yet another multiple homicide, she said.

She added that a policewoman was shot dead on her way to work early yesterday morning. Six policemen have been killed in Medellin since Thursday, three of whom died in the blast near the Intercontinental Hotel.

The Medellin cocaine cartel has offered \$4,300 for every police officer killed. So far this month 33 have been assassinated, police said.

Bogota is an armed camp. Military checkpoints line major streets and highways, and armed personnel carriers mounted with machine guns patrol the cities. Soldiers are everywhere.

"I get nervous every time I walk by a parked car, thinking this could be the next one to blow up," said Gonzalo Pereira, an oil industry executive.

Pereira said he figures that by showing up when polls open at 8 am, the line will be short and he can vote in perhaps 15 minutes.

Most voting will take place at wooden sheds placed side by side



Members of the Colombian special elite force patrol a poor suburb in Bogota on May 25. (Reuter wirephoto)

Call for legalising cocaine

BOGOTA, May 26. (AP) A top presidential candidate said yesterday that the United States and other countries should legalise cocaine consumption to reduce drug-related violence in Colombia.

The candidate, Alvaro Gomez, said legalisation would deprive powerful drug lords of the profits they use to buy weapons to terrorise Colombia.

"The legalisation of cocaine in the world would resolve the problem in Colombia," Gomez said in a news conference in Bogota with foreign reporters.

He said legalisation would reduce the street price of cocaine, taking profits out of the business. Some Colombian traffickers have become multi-millionaires selling cocaine.

Gomez is a centre-right candidate for the National Salvation Movement. He broke away

from the Conservative Party earlier this year. He has been an unsuccessful candidate for president twice.

He said he would, if elected, invite a special United Nations body to mediate in Colombia's drug war, the conflict has claimed the lives of some 300 people since last August.

Gomez said he would ask the UN body to analyse earlier offers by the drug traffickers to quit the cocaine trade in return for amnesty.

"We should invite them here so that they can determine the seriousness of the drug traffickers' proposals," he said.

The traffickers proposed peace in January, but they have since renewed their campaigns of bombing and assassinations, officials say.

along sidewalks and streets.

It is difficult to have a conversation with a Colombian these days without the subject getting around to bombs and other terrorist acts.

"The violence is keeping people away from public areas and overwhelmingly reducing their activities. It might also keep people at home for the elections," said Camilo Castellanos, a social scientist.

A low voter turnout that could wrest legitimacy from the winner may be exactly what the perpetrators of the violence are seeking in their campaigns to des-

tabilise politics, officials say.

Terrorism — and the desire to stay clear of its indiscriminate attacks — is overshadowing major election issues such as constitutional reform and negotiations with leftist rebels.

Restaurant business at night is off sharply, said an American who owns one of Bogota's biggest restaurants and refused to be identified. People are scared of bombs, he said.

Soldiers forced their way into dozens of houses a week ago in search of bombs. The army says it had learned of a drug traffick-

ers plan to pack a house with tonnes of dynamite and set it off.

Cars entering parking lots at shopping centres and supermarkets are inspected for bombs.

Schoolchildren are being taught to take cover under desks in case of a bomb. Army officers are giving speeches to neighbourhood housing organisations on evacuation and disaster control.

Leftist guerrillas ambushed a police convoy yesterday and killed seven policemen who were to protect a southern Colombian polling station for Sunday's presidential elections, an army official said.

Colombian journalists awarded

CAMBRIDGE, Massachusetts, May 26. (AP) Colombian journalists under siege for covering the drug trade in their nation have won the 1990 Louis M. Lyons award for conscience and integrity in journalism.

Harvard University's Nieman Foundation said yesterday.

The award cites Colombian reporters, living and dead, for their work on the drug industry and its effect on that country.

Luis Gabriel Cano, 67-year-old president of the staunchly anti-drug newspaper El Espectador of Bogota, will accept the award. The paper's staffers have been killed or forced into exile. Its newsroom was bombed in September.

The committee to protect journalists, a New York-based human rights group, has documented the killing of 20 reporters and editors in Colombia by agents of drug lords in the last five years.

Camarena has created a rift between the US and Mexican governments.

Alvarez, a Guadalajara gynaecologist, was arrested April 3 in El Paso, Texas, to face charges in the 1985 kidnapping, torture and murder of Camarena and his pilot.

Garate testified that he arranged for friends of his in Mexico to spirit Alvarez across the border, and that his DEA supervisor, Hector Berrellez, approved.

Sanctions \$420m for Panama, \$300m for Nicaragua

Bush signs Centam aid bill

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine, May 26. (AP) President George Bush began a pre-summit vacation yesterday by signing into law a million-dollar aid package for Panama and Nicaragua.

The measure provides \$420 million for Panama, which is rebuilding after US economic sanctions and an invasion last December to topple Manuel Antonio Noriega from power.

Nicaragua's new government, led by US-backed President Violeta Chamorro, will receive \$300 million. Chamorro is seeking to revive Nicaragua's economy after 11 years of leftist Sandinista rule, civil war and US sanctions.

Overall, the spending measure provides

\$4.4 billion in domestic spending and foreign assistance. The administration's commitment to sending aid to Panama and Nicaragua led Bush to accept spending provisions for the pet domestic projects of some lawmakers.

The measure was flown to Bush's seaside Maine compound for his signature, and a White House statement said Bush signed it last night.

Bush is vacationing at his Maine retreat before next week's summit with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev.

The White House had announced earlier that Bush had telephoned both Chamorro and Panamanian President Guillermo Endara.

The two Latin leaders "expressed their gratitude for the congressional action and thanked (Bush) for his efforts on behalf of their countries," deputy White House Press Secretary Stephen Hart said in a statement.

"They stated that this is a major step forward in solidifying and supporting the growth of democracy in Panama and Nicaragua," Hart added.

President Guillermo Endara at a news conference yesterday promised judicious use of the money for "the greatest benefit to all Panamanians." Nicaraguan presidential spokesman Danilo Lacayo said the money would "stabilise a little the situation we live in."

Call for urgent action

Temperature will rise next century

LONDON, May 26. (AP) United Nations scientists called yesterday for urgent action to curb "greenhouse" gases that already have begun raising the temperature of the planet.

Temperatures will rise in the next century faster than in the last 10,000 years, the respected panel said in a report released here yesterday.

The report was one of three being prepared by working groups of the UN's inter-governmental panel on climate change, which called on the expertise of about 1,000 scientists around the world.

The two other working groups are preparing reports on the effects of

global warming and possible ways of dealing with the dangerous climatic change that they say will cause rising seas, the spread of disease and widespread starvation in poor countries.

The three reports on aspects of global warming will be presented in November at the World Climate Conference in Geneva.

The world temperature is likely to increase about 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit (1 degree C) in the next 35 years and 5.4 degrees (3 degrees C) before the end of the next century, said the report by the group on the science of global warming, chaired by a British expert.

Sea levels were predicted to rise by 2.3 inches (5.8 cms) each decade, or 8 inches (20 cms) by 2030, and 25.5 inches (64 cms) by the end of the next century.

These conclusions and others represent an international consensus in the scientific certainty on global warming and will increase pressure on the United States to take action.

The United States and Japan have been skeptical of the phenomenon and reluctant to take severe economic and policy steps to deal with it. The United States has called for more study.

Martin Houlgate, a former chief scientist with Britain's environment department, said the new study indicates it would be better to err on the side of caution.

"The implications of inaction are far more serious than the risks of taking action now and finding that not all our projections were sound," he said on British Broadcasting Corp. radio.

Greenhouse spokesman Steve Elsworth said the study was "the biggest international research drive into global warming ever conducted."

"It's authoritative and objective, it was set up by the United Nations General Assembly and staffed by first-rank scientists from around the world," he said.

"The White House will no longer be able to pick its favourite scientific skeptic as an excuse for not reducing US emissions," said Dan Lashoff of the Washington DC-based Natural Resources Defence Council.

Global warming is the process by which greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide and chlorofluorocarbons, collect on the outer edges of the earth's atmosphere and trap heat within.

The release of the report by the respected UN panel of scientists could move the international agenda from discussions of whether global warming exists, to plans for how to deal with it.

Proposals being discussed for reducing "greenhouse" gases include:

■ Improving energy efficiency and substituting natural gas and other "clean" fuels for high-carbon fuels like coal and oil.

■ Eliminating the use of chlorofluorocarbons.

■ Substituting cleaner fuels to power cars and installing catalytic converters where they are not already in use; improving public transportation and traffic management.

■ Reducing industry emissions through better design and recycling energy-intensive waste.

■ Promoting tree planting and discouraging deforestation through economic incentive.

■ Providing aid and training to developing countries to encourage the use of energy efficient technologies.



Private moments

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher smiles at her grandson, Michael, 15-month-old, while he frowns at the press. Thatcher was meeting Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew at the prime minister's country estate on May 25. (Reuter wirephoto)

Castro taped talks with Noriega aides

Transcripts for defence lawyer

MIAMI, May 26. (UPI) Cuban President Fidel Castro secretly taped talks with Panamanian officials in recent years and may forward transcripts to ousted Panamanian dictator Manuel Noriega's lawyer, a newspaper reported yesterday.

Maj. Felipe Camargo, a former senior Noriega intelligence aide, told the Miami Herald that Castro would give attorneys transcripts of secretly recorded conversations between Castro and former Noriega assistant Jose Blandon.

Blandon, who broke from Noriega in January 1988 while serving as Panama's consul in New York, is considered a star witness in the US government's drug trafficking case against the ousted Panamanian dictator.

The Herald interviewed Camargo at the El Renacer maximum security prison at Gamboa, Panama, 20 miles (32 km) northwest of Panama City, in his first public statements since his

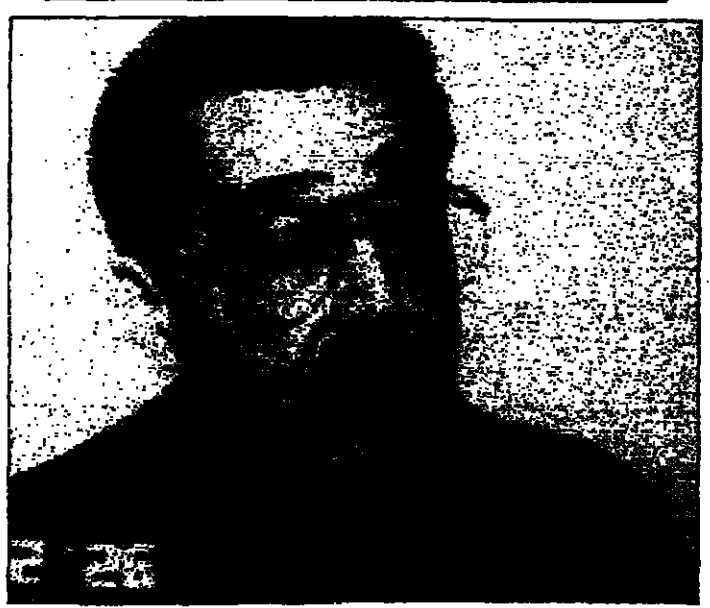
arrest after the US invasion Dec 20 of the Central American country.

Camargo faces 18 charges of brutality against anti-Noriega militants and was a ranking official in Noriega's G-2 intelligence service. A frequent envoy to Cuba, he had met with Castro at least 50 times since 1977.

Castro said during a March visit to Brazil he had given Noriega's lawyer evidence that would help Noriega's case and had more to offer. Castro did not specify what he provided or what he retained.

Noriega's defence team, citing restrictions under the classified information procedures act, has declined to disclose the contents of the papers they received.

But Frank Rubino, lead attorney for Noriega, said: "I can unequivocally tell you they are not transcripts of conversations."



Pleads guilty

William Cooper, a US citizen and Vietnam war veteran, pleaded guilty in the Cuban court on May 25 to drug smuggling. Cooper was arrested February 1989 with a cargo of marijuana aboard his yacht on the eastern coast of Cuba. (Reuter wirephoto)

Barry risked in sting: lawyers

WASHINGTON, May 26. (AP) Mayor Marion Barry's lawyers asserted yesterday that Barry's life was jeopardized by an FBI sting operation designed to coerce him into smoking crack cocaine.

Defence attorney Kenneth Mundy said the FBI undercover operation that led to Barry's arrest Jan 18 amounted to an "invasion" of the mayor's person and should result in dismissal of a cocaine possession charge against him.

Barry's lawyers also sought to suppress FBI videotapes that law enforcement sources have said show Barry smoking the drug.

Meanwhile, Barry campaign officials said they intend to pick up petitions for the upcoming mayoral race. Such a move would be the first formal step Barry can take to enter the Sept 11 Democratic primary.

The Washington Post said yesterday a poll showed Barry has suffered no significant erosion in his political base since his arrest. He and councilman John W. Wilson were tied with 23 per cent each of the 760 Democrats polled by the newspaper about their preference for the Democratic mayoral nomination. The rest were split among four additional challengers.

Barry has not publicly disclosed his political plans but has made a series of campaign-style appearances across the district of Columbia in recent weeks.

Top Barry political aides, speaking on condition of anonymity, say the mayor intends to seek a fourth, four-year term.

In Court, Mundy said a cardiologist had concluded "there was a high risk" to the "life of Mr Barry" when the government offered him \$9 per cent pure crack cocaine.

However, assistant US attorney Judith Reichen asserted Barry's "smoking of the crack was voluntary."

Fujimori, Llosa running close

Rebels force shoppers to loot stores

LIMA, May 26. (AP) Novelist Mario Vargas Llosa and fellow presidential contender Alberto Fujimori are running nearly even among Lima voters, according to an independent poll published yesterday.

Poll results released earlier this week showed Fujimori, an agricultural engineer, leading in the poorer rural areas of this Andean nation.

But Vargas Llosa, a centre-right candidate, has chipped away at the lead held by this centrist opponent since the April 8 first round election. The two face each other in a runoff election June 10.

In other developments, rebels armed with machine guns and dynamite forced shoppers yesterday to loot two large stores in downtown Lima, police said.

Twenty guerrillas rounded up employees of a Monterrey department store and a Bata shoe store and ordered shoppers to take whatever they wanted from store shelves, police said.

The guerrillas, members of the Cuban-inspired Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, left five sticks of dynamite in front of one of the stores. They then disappeared into the streets filled with rush-hour crowds.

The latest poll survey showed Vargas Llosa getting 45 per cent support to Fujimori's 41 per cent in the metropolitan area of the capital. Fully 15 per cent of the respondents left blank ballots or were undecided.

The poll was conducted by the independent firm "Consultora 1-2 de Marketing". It was based on a survey of 412 people between May 19 and 22 and



Llosa (left) makes a campaign stop in San Juan de Miraflores in preparation for the upcoming run-off elections. (Reuter wirephoto)

had a 5 per cent margin of error.

Vargas Llosa, meanwhile, stepped up his media campaign in the election's final stretch.

In a television broadcast Thursday night he introduced members of his team of advisers. Each spoke briefly on different programmes proposed by Vargas Llosa's Democratic Front coalition.

The 20-minute broadcast was carried by five of Peru's eight television channels.

In his address, Vargas Llosa promised to cool the country's hyperinflation to 10 per cent a year his first year in office. Inflation in the last 12 months reached 1,900 per cent.

DEA paid \$26,000 for 'services' to bring in Mexican doctor to US soil

LOS ANGELES, May 26. (AP) The Drug Enforcement Administration paid \$20,000 plus \$6,000 a week in expenses to the people who brought a Mexican doctor to US soil to face charges in a US drug agent's murder, a witness testified.

Former Mexican police officer Antonio Garate Bustamante said yesterday he arranged for the doctor to be brought across the border with the approval of DEA officials. A DEA official testified that a deputy director of the agency autho-

orised the plan.

The testimony at a federal court hearing followed confirmation by the DEA in Washington that there had been a \$20,000 payment. DEA spokesman Frank Shults called it payment for "services" and said it was not a reward or bounty.

The alleged kidnapping of Dr Humberto Alvarez Machain in Mexico and his delivery to US authorities to face charges in the slaying of DEA agent Enrique

Camarena has created a rift between the US and Mexican governments.

Alvarez, a Guadalajara gynaecologist, was arrested April 3 in El Paso, Texas, to face charges in the 1985 kidnapping, torture and murder of Camarena and his pilot.

Garate testified that he arranged for friends of his in Mexico to spirit Alvarez across the border, and that his DEA supervisor, Hector Berrellez, approved.

Berrellez testified that the highest authority for the plan was DEA deputy director Pete Gruden.

Garate said an earlier plan fell through. That plan involved officials of the Mexican federal police, a \$100,000 reward and swapping the doctor for a Mexican fugitive sought in the United States.

Garate said he then found friends who would take on the job without advance payment and he was told to accept the offer.

Quebec squabble throws govt into crisis

TORONTO, May 26, (AP): Three provincial leaders have thrown Prime Minister Brian Mulroney's government into crisis and provoked new fears of French-speaking Quebec's secession.

Mulroney was spending the weekend in intense one-on-one conferences with the provincial premiers, hoping to find a compromise and salvage what is known as the Meech Lake agreement before a June 23 deadline.

Quebec refused to sign Canada's

1982 constitution. A proposed amendment containing five major points essential in Quebec's eyes was agreed to and signed by Mulroney and all 10 premiers at Meech Lake, near Ottawa, in 1987. They set a three-year deadline for ratification by all provincial legislatures.

The governments changed in three provinces, and the new premiers — Clyde Wells of Newfoundland, Gary Filmon of Manitoba and Frank McKenna of New Brunswick — balked at

the Meech Lake agreement.

Of the five points, the most troublesome for many opponents — and virtually the only one the public remembers — would define Quebec as a "distinct society" from the rest of Canada.

Quebec has been careful to make no threatening noises, but Premier Robert Bourassa has repeated that while he is willing to consider further discussion later on the concerns of the dissenting provinces, Quebec will accept no changes whatever to the agreement signed three years ago.

Many Anglophone Canadians think Quebec is seeking special treatment.

"I have this terrible feeling that we're capable of blowing this," said Alberta Premier Donald Getty, a strong Meech backer, after his meeting with Mulroney. "We are gambling with our country here and the enormity of that should sink into people's minds."

Interviews with a wide range of Quebecois indicate many of them feel they are once again being rejected by English Canada. On the other hand,

many Anglophone Canadians think Quebec is seeking special treatment. Bouchard said the report, to be used as a basis for negotiating a companion agreement to Meech Lake, would dilute Quebec's gains. He returned to Montreal to a near hero's welcome, but the newspaper La Presse editorialized that his resignation was an "emotive and theatrical gesture."

Temperatures mounted several degrees with the sudden resignation last week of Lucien Bouchard, Mulroney's environment minister, longtime personal friend and lieutenant for Quebec. Bouchard quit after a special parliamentary committee searching for a Meech Lake compromise issued its

report.

Bouchard said the report, to be used as a basis for negotiating a companion agreement to Meech Lake, would dilute Quebec's gains. He returned to Montreal to a near hero's welcome, but the newspaper La Presse editorialized that his resignation was an "emotive and theatrical gesture."

"It is not by slamming doors and breaking off communications that Quebecois will be represented in Ottawa," the newspaper said.

Ontario court acquits

TORONTO, May 26, (AP): Imre Finta, the first person tried under Canada's war crimes law, was acquitted yesterday of manslaughter and atrocities against thousands of Jews in Nazi-occupied Hungary during World War II.

An Ontario supreme court jury of eight women and four men returned its verdict yesterday afternoon following 12-12 hours of deliberations over two days.

Finta, 77, who had shown little emotion as he saw in the prisoners' box during the six-month trial, broke down and cried when he heard the verdict. His lawyer, Doug Christie, also choked back tears.

Finta had been charged with confinement, kidnapping, robbery and manslaughter in the rounding up and deportation of 8,617 Jewish civilians from Hungary in June 1944.

Nobody believes Finta a Nazi, the sobbing, white-haired Finta said after being cleared of all charges. "I love the Jewish people ... my (former) fiancée was Jewish."

Ontario Supreme Court Justice Archie Campbell concluded the proceedings by telling the hushed courtroom, "Mr. Finta, you are discharged ... you are certainly free to go."

European trip restored pride

Anti-De Klerk whites rally in Pretoria

JOHANNESBURG, May 26, (Agencies): President F. W. de Klerk came home to a rousing welcome today after an 18-day European tour and said "South Africa's pride has been restored."

"The road to normal relationships for South Africa is open," De Klerk told the largely white crowd of more than 1,000 that turned out to greet him at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport.

He said he was welcomed warmly and with dignity at each stop on his tour, the longest and most extensive by a South African head of

government since World War Two.

White South African leaders have been stunned by most European countries since Pretoria imposed emergency rule in 1986, but De Klerk's trip was made possible after he began a series of sweeping apartheid reforms in February.

He is due to visit US President George Bush in Washington next month in another diplomatic response to his gradual dismantling of apartheid and the release from prison of African National Congress (ANC) leader Nelson Mandela.

Prisoners break jail in Gabon

LIBREVILLE, May 26, (Agencies): More than 100 prisoners escaped from a jail in the capital yesterday, setting weapons from a government armoury and firing at troops as France evacuated more than 800 US, French and Dutch citizens on the third day of riots against President Omar Bongo, police said.

The break-out happened at around 3pm (1400 GMT) at a city jail where warders recently have begun on strike, shattering a day of calm in Libreville after a curfew was imposed overnight, the police sources said. Some sources suggested discontented prison guards may have helped the inmates escape from the prison, which holds a total of 800 prisoners.

The escapees stormed an armoury at the Ministry of Forests, seized rifles and opened fire on security forces in the capital. Hundreds of French-trained elite presidential guardsmen surrounded the armed prisoners, who barricaded up streets in the south-central Libreville neighbourhood of Nkomo, said the sources. A similar break-out happened at the city of Lambaréne yesterday.

President Bongo blamed the introduction this month of a multi-party system for the disorders that began in the West African nation Wednesday after opposition Gabonese Progress Party Joseph Boudjane was found dead in mysterious circumstances in a room at the Hotel Dove in Libreville, the Gabonese capital.

At Lambaréne, a city in the forested interior of the country 150 miles (100 km) from the Atlantic coast, hundreds of demonstrators battered down the gates of the city jail and freed about 50 prisoners inside, the sources said.

President Bongo warned his opponents yesterday he would stop at nothing to crush political unrest in the country.

"We've had enough. If that (unrest) repeats itself, we will go to any length to re-establish order," Bongo told reporters. But he said the violence, would not come him to resign, on the promise.

France airlifted 800 of its 3,000 citizens from the oil-producing town of Port Gentil, 130 km (80 miles) southwest of the capital Libreville, yesterday.

The women and children, mostly French but including some Belgian, Dutch and British nationals, were escorted to the Port Gentil airport by French soldiers. Some planned to stay in Libreville but others flew back to France on a special Air France charter.

"The rioters systematically destroyed the infrastructure that we have invested many years to create," said Andre-Diendoune Berre, director of Shell Gabon.

The government, meanwhile, created a special commission to investigate the death of opposition leader.

The French government sent reinforcements after opposition supporters took a French diplomat hostage for several hours.

Opposition party members then took 10 oil executives hostage in Port Gentil — eight Frenchmen, one Briton and a Gabon citizen.

Over 100,000 white rightists gathered today at the towering Voortrekker Monument to afrikanderdom outside Pretoria to demonstrate their opposition to De Klerk's reforms.

"Our third freedom struggle has begun," ultra-rightist Conservative Party (CP) leader Andries Treurnicht said at the meeting marking the 42nd anniversary of the ruling white National Party's election to power.

The CP split from Klerk's National Party almost 10 years ago in protest at gradual apartheid reform.

"Get into step with your fellow citizens who are on the road to a new South Africa — a fatherland for the white man," Treurnicht said.

In Rome, De Klerk said yesterday his government is considering lifting the nation-wide state of emergency that has been in force for four years.

The state of emergency gives police wide powers to detain people without charge, ban political rallies, restrict the movement of journalists and prohibit "any act" deemed a threat to public order.

The proclamation comes up for reconsideration in June, as it does each year.

"We will consider all alternatives," De Klerk said. "We sincerely believe that the state of emergency must go as soon as possible ... there are various alternatives at which we will look. I don't want to raise any expectations apart from saying we will be looking at this fundamentally."

South African right-wingers massed at a shrine to their ancestors today in a challenge to De Klerk's plan to share power with blacks.

The African National Congress also declared that its guerrilla officers should be integrated into the white-led South African defence force, the army they have been fighting for 30 years.

The new South Africa is already in the process of being born. Nobody can stop it. Through no mustering of large meetings can anybody stop the process.

"We will not allow ourselves to be frightened or threatened or intimidated off this path," De Klerk said to loud applause from the flag-waving crowd.

Celebrates Africa's Day

CAIRO, May 26, (Kuna): Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak today urged African nations to exert maximum efforts in order to realise African economic integration by the year 2000.

President Mubarak, who is current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), reminded that the greatest challenge now faced by the continent "of generating development and socio-economic reforms call upon us to exert maximum effort."

In his message, marking Africa's Day, President Mubarak drew world attention to Africa's plight as result of its acute economic problems.

The message, read on his behalf by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali at a celebration held here today at the premises of the ruling National Democratic Party, hoped for collective endeavours by the world's creditor and indebted countries to improve economic conditions in Africa and alleviate its suffering.



Hendrik Verwoerd sits by a portrait of his late father and namesake, the South African prime minister who created apartheid (Reuters wirephoto)

Whites can manage without blacks

Verwoerd building own idea of Utopia

MORGENZON, South Africa, May 26, (Reuters): In the sleepy South African town of Morgenzon, the son of apartheid's creator Hendrik Verwoerd is building his own idea of Utopia — a country without black people.

The younger Hendrik Verwoerd and his Orangewerker group refuse to serve black Africans in their shops or employ them in their farms and businesses.

They are even prepared to break the habits of centuries by doing their own housework and manual labour, which they admit is not easy, rather than tolerate blacks living nearby.

"We don't give them work, they find it is better to move to other places, we go on to create new jobs for our own people," said

Verwoerd, a bearded 49-year-old former church minister.

A score of Orangewerker families settled in Morgenzon in 1985, aiming to prove that whites can manage without blacks and hoping to win the other white townspeople over to their cause.

They argue that only by carving out a whites-only country from part of South Africa can the Afrikaner descendants of early Dutch and Protestant French settlers keep their identity.

This idea goes beyond the theories of Verwoerd's father and namesake, prime minister from 1958 to 1966, for whom apartheid meant white domination over most of the country

including black areas, except for some small black tribal homelands.

According to the younger Verwoerd, blacks must be expelled by force if necessary, from much of the Transvaal, Orange Free state and Cape province where Afrikaners traditionally settled.

Then the blacks and anyone else who wishes to join them can make whatever arrangements they like in the rest of the country.

"If we have to take to violence it would be to drive out people that don't belong ... then we would like to establish ourselves as good neighbours with them," he told Reuters, speaking courteously in hesitant English and offering tea.



Airlifted from Gabon

An unidentified child is pushed by his French mother after their arrival from Gabon at Roissy airport on May 25. France airlifted 800 of its 3,000 citizens from the Gabonese city of Port Gentil after riots against President Omar Bongo spawned widespread looting. (Reuters wirephoto)

Remains of officer found inside shark

Cop lost at sea last month

JACKSONVILLE, Florida, May 26, (UPI): Fishermen cutting a 350 pound (160 kg) tiger shark found a pair of sneakers believed to be those of a police officer lost at sea last month, authorities said.

Associate medical examiner Margarita Arruza tentatively identified the remains as belonging to Jacksonville police officer Thomas Caron, 33.

The 8-foot-long (2.4 m) shark was caught Wednesday about 23 miles (37 km) off Amelia Island by commercial shark fishermen from Daytona Beach.

One of the Ocean Pacific high-top sneakers contained an entire foot, while the other contained a sock and some bits of skin, Arruza said. Officials hope to positively identify the remains in a few days by matching foot-

prints. Caron's relatives had seen the sneakers and "they seemed to think they belonged to him," Arruza said.

Although the foot appeared to have been severed by the shark, Arruza said she had no way of telling whether the shark killed the victim or if he was already dead when the attack occurred.

The officer's relatives said the find dashed all hopes that their loved one was alive.

"Tom was everything to us, and you always have that feeling in the back of your mind that he might be on an island somewhere, alive," said James Morgan, a cousin. "It's gruesome to even think about it, but at least now we know. Now we know it's over."

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Survey reveals China's sex life

HONG KONG, May 26, (AP): After a year of interviews to try to pry loose Chinese citizens' most intimate secrets about sex, surveyors say they have detected some changes in attitude in what long has been a prudish society.

Interviewers fanned out across the country nearly a year ago seeking not political confessions, but detailed accounts of what goes on inside Chinese bedrooms for an unprecedented survey on sex in the world's most populous nation.

The results are now in. They show that Chinese attitudes toward sex have liberalised in the past decade of openness to the outside world and that there is a great need for sex education to cope with the changes sweeping among the country's 1.2 billion people.

"I believe that Chinese concepts of sex are in a process of change," said Liu Daling, whose Shanghai Sex Sociological Research Centre conducted the survey. "We have broken through some of the old concepts, but not completely."

The June 4 military crackdown on dissent last year almost killed the survey before it got under way, as foreign investors withdrew funding and some leaders said the project's timing was inappropriate.

But Liu solved the funding crisis by dipping into his own savings. By August, hundreds of volunteers were interviewing married couples, students and sex criminals in 15 provinces.

Interviewers often faced resistance from a population not used to discussing details of their private lives.

"They didn't understand why someone would want to ask that kind of question. How many times do you have sex with your husband each month," Liu explained. "They'd say, 'why do you want to ask this? Are you kidding?'"

Most of the respondents were given a written form to fill out and deposit in a sealed box to maintain secrecy. Illiterate peasants were questioned in person.

By October, about 23,000 usable questionnaires were completed, and what the respondents had to say indicated different attitudes than what many accepted.

As an example, more than half of the married respondents said they do not limit sexual intercourse to only the missionary position, which Liu described as a departure from past practice.

The survey also found 54 per cent of city dwellers and 44 per cent of peasants do not object to extramarital affairs, attitudes that Liu said would have been espoused by only a small minority just 10 years ago. Nearly 15 per cent of married city women who were questioned acknowledged having one or more affairs.

Liu, who was in Hong Kong this week to attend a seminar on sexuality, said in an interview that 90 per cent of the married respondents expressed some degree of satisfaction with their sex lives.

About one-fourth of village women and one-third of city women said they often experienced "pleasant feelings" during intercourse, and many others said they had such feelings occasionally.

But further questions indicated the quality of marriage and sex lives may not be as hot as the Chinese think.

Akihito invited to visit Korea

Roh heals memories

TOKYO, May 26, (AP): South Korean President Roh Tae-Woo invited Emperor Akihito to make the first Japanese imperial visit to Korea and said his own trip to Japan would help heal Koreans' bitter memories of Japanese colonialisation.

Roh made his comments today as he began wrapping up his three-day state visit to Japan. He planned to stop in Osaka to meet Japanese business leaders and members of the local Korean community before returning to Seoul later today.

Roh and Japanese officials described the visit as a step into a new era of partnership. The two countries have a long history of enmity and still-unresolved issues from the 1910-1945 period when Japan ruled Korea as an annexed colony.

The centrepiece of the visit was a state banquet Thursday night during which Akihito expressed "deepest regret" for Japan's treatment of Korea.



South Korean police arrest a radical student yesterday during a demonstration outside the US embassy in Seoul. (Reuters wirephoto)

Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu also expressed "sincere remorse and honest apologies," and said the two countries must have good relations as a basis for peace in the region.

With those statements, Roh said, "I feel that myself and the people of my country feel we can put the unfortunate period of our history behind us."

Before he came to Japan, radical students and elderly Koreans who had suffered through the Japanese colonial period demonstrated against Roh's visit. One protester attempted suicide by slitting his belly in front of Japan's embassy in Seoul.

Even after the Japanese apologies, some Koreans said they wanted Japan to go further by ending discrimination against Koreans in Japan, giving aid to Koreans who are still displaced due to being drafted into wartime labour for Japan, and assisting Korean survivors of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Roh made clear he had asked Japan to move forward on those issues. But he said he was satisfied with the progress so far and he invited Akihito and Empress Michiko to visit South Korea as soon as it is convenient. Akihito will not travel abroad until after his enthronement Nov 12.

Akihito called on Roh today morning to bid him farewell. It was their fourth meeting during the visit, an unusual amount of imperial contact even for important foreign guests and apparently enough for some friendliness to develop.

"While you are in Korea, I hope we will have the chance to work up a sweat on the tennis courts," Roh said, according to an Imperial Palace official, who spoke on condition of anonymity. Roh, 57, and the 56-year-old emperor are avid tennis players.

During a visit to Tokyo six years ago, Roh's predecessor, Chun Doo-Hwan, invited Akihito, then crown prince, to visit South Korea. That trip was later cancelled because of Michiko's health.

Latest: A senior South Korean official today rejected the latest North Korean proposal that the two Korean states jointly enter the United Nations and share a seat with rotating representation.

Korean UN bid step to reunity

UNITED NATIONS, May 26, (AP): North Korea's ambassador said yesterday that the two Korean states should begin talks on joint membership in the United Nations and sharing a single seat with rotating responsibilities.

"Our new position by President Kim Il Sung is realistic and practical and based upon the changing world situation, which includes forthcoming German reunification and the union of the two Yemen states," said Ambassador Pak Gil Yon, the permanent observer of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

It was the second straight day in which the government of Pyongyang promoted the proposal for a single UN seat before reunification.

President Kim said in a speech Thursday that the two Korean states should join the world body before reunification of the divided Korean peninsula, not afterward — the previous position.

Man harpooned in mystery attack

HONG KONG, May 26, (Reuters): A 30-year-old Hong Kong man was harpooned by a passing motorcyclist today, police said.

The victim, Kwok La-Shing, was standing by the side of the road near a housing estate when a solo motorcyclist shot him with a fisherman's harpoon and drove off, police said.



Smoke rises from the Dai-ichi Chemical Industries in Tokyo yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Blast at Japan plant

TOKYO, May 26, (AP): An explosion today at a chemical plant in downtown Tokyo killed seven employees and injured 20 others, the fire department said.

More than 50 fire engines went to the blaze which followed at the plant in the Itabashi ward of the city. "The fire was brought under control," a fire department spokesman said.

Six people were killed immediately and a seventh person, who was among five seriously injured, died later in hospital. The spokesman said the final toll might be even higher.

The cause of the explosion was not known, but firemen said it was possible the blast was caused by a chemical used in processing plastics.

A Dai-ichi chemical industries factory in north-

western Tokyo exploded early today, burning down nine factory buildings, said an official at the Tokyo metropolitan fire department. Some of the buildings in the crowded complex were wooden.

The fire department is investigating the cause of the explosion, the official said.

At the time of the explosion, 51 employees were working at the factory, which manufactures bleaching agents, chlorides and benzoyl Peroxide. The condition of the remaining 23 was unknown, though most were thought to have escaped, he said.

Injured employees were being treated at nearby hospitals, he said.

No damage was reported outside the factory, said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Military pledges fairness

Burma goes to polls

BANGKOK, May 26, (AP): The country's first multi-party elections in 30 years tomorrow could be a first step toward ending harsh military rule.

But many Western diplomats, human rights groups and others have charged that widespread arrests, intimidation of party workers and martial law restrictions have already nullified the validity of the polls.

Predictions about the outcome range from substantial victory for the democratic parties to a fractured vote that will insure continued military domination.

The ruling military council has pledged that voting will be fair and free. Restrictions on campaigning were eased in recent days. Fewer troops were reported in Rangoon, the Burmese capital and site of massive street demonstrations two years ago that were brutally crushed with military force.

After initially closing off the country to tourists and turning down requests to monitor the election from several human rights and legal organisations, Rangoon last week granted visas to 61 journalists from the United States, western Europe and Asia.

To be elected are 492 parliamentarians out of 2,297 candidates. Voting has been postponed in seven of the 492

constituencies due to security and communications problems.

The military has promised to step down from power when the parliament puts together a new constitution, a process which could take several years.

The elections will be held without the country's three most popular opposition leaders.

Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of independence hero Aung San, was placed under house arrest last July and retired Gen. Tin Oo is serving a three-year jail term. Former Prime Minister Nu, who presided over a chaotic experiment in democracy during the 1950s, also is under house arrest.

Ms. Suu Kyi and Tin Oo headed the National League for Democracy, the country's most popular party which will face off against the conservative National Unity Party. This grouping is the successor to the pro-military Burma Socialist Programme Party, which wielded power for a quarter century.

Although a total of 93 parties have entered the contest, only about half dozen are expected to make any substantial showing.

These include the League for Democracy and Peace, backed by Nu; the Union Nationalists Democracy Party of Aung Gyi; Thu Wai's Democracy Party,

and the Democratic Front for National Reconstruction headed by onetime leftist leader Chit Maung.

The National Unity Party has an efficient and well-financed machine but is handicapped by the ruinous record of its predecessor and popular resentment of the military following the bloody events of 1988.

The National League for Democracy has been weakened by internal feuding, the loss of its top leadership and arrests of its supporters and candidates. Suu Kyi's downfall came when she publicly criticized Ne Win, Burma's strongman between 1962 and 1988.

Burma, a nation of 41 million, has suffered from political turmoil and civil war since its independence from Great Britain in 1948.

A period of flawed democracy, but relative economic prosperity, was followed by a NE Win-led coup in 1962 and a failed experiment in mixing military control, socialist economics and international isolationism.

The resource-rich country has sunk to among the world's poorest. A major drain on the economy has been a decades-long war between the central government and a dozen ethnic minority groups demanding greater autonomy.

Respect life; Pope's advice

TA' PINU, Malta, May 26, (AP): Pope John Paul II crossed the Maltese archipelago today and told the islanders to reject modernism and respect life.

On the second day of his pilgrimage here, the first ever by a Pope to Malta, John Paul kept up his theme of reminding the Maltese of their centuries-long Catholic traditions.

The Vatican says the population of the 350,000 Maltese is 98.9 per cent Catholic; abortion is illegal on the islands and courts do not grant divorces.

John Paul crossed from Malta to Gozo, the second largest island in the archipelago, on a 60-foot (20-metre) catamaran. The trip took him by St. Paul's Bay, where Maltese say the apostle was shipwrecked in the year AD60 and founded the first Christian community on the island.

Papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro said John Paul stood on the bridge during the 18-minute trip. The blue Mediterranean waters were nearly calm except for an occasional whitecap.

Cannon boomed a noisy salute when word reached this town that the Pope had docked in Gozo.

John Paul's first Maltese mass was held at a 17th-century shrine dedicated to the Virgin Mary. He took the opportunity to warn that Maltese families must guard against the challenge posed by rapid development.

"Like many societies, yours is not immune to a kind of spiritual disorientation caused by rapid social changes and the attraction of value systems and modes of behaviour which run counter to the deepest convictions which have moulded your identity as a people," John Paul said, speaking in English.

He called on "all those responsible for the public welfare" to reject as harmful to society "everything that would ignore or deny God's plan for the family and lessen respect for the gift of human life."

About 1,000 people in a holiday-mood jammed into the small square in front of the basilica under a scorching sun for the mass.

The visit comes after a long period of Church-state tension under the previous socialist government, which ruled from 1971 until narrowly losing the general election in 1987.

New church-state accords are being worked out with the present nationalist administration.

The Pope yesterday declared the Roman Catholic church must be allowed to play its historic leading role on this Mediterranean island.

He wasted no time in emphasizing "the unique and lasting contribution which the Christian faith has made to Malta" and made thinly-veiled references to the problems the church has faced.

Despite a Christian tradition which islanders say dates to the year 60 when Saint Paul was shipwrecked on Malta, such a visit was considered unthinkable under the previous socialist government.

Ruling from 1971 until losing general elections by a razor-thin margin in 1987, the Labour Party carried out a campaign the church said was aimed at undermining its dominant role in Maltese life.

This included barring private schools, including Catholic ones from charging tuition, and a law ordering the church to hand over property to which it could not prove ownership.

Some of the bitterness stemmed from the 1960s, when the church imposed sanctions on socialist officials and supporters.

John Paul praised the new climate under the nationalist administration of Eddie Fenech Adami, a regular churchgoer. He said he expected that a new church-state agreement will be reached soon.

Cambodian rebels launch offensive

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand, May 26, (Reuters): Western-backed guerrillas have launched an attack to retake a government-held town in northwest Cambodia before a possible ceasefire, guerrilla officials said today.

About 4,000 troops and almost all our unit commanders are involved in the offensive. The objective is to retake Svay Chek," Khmer People's National Liberation Front (KPNLF) official OK Serei Sopheak said in this Thai border town.

The guerrillas lost Svay Chek, about 25 km (15 miles) from the frontier, to troops of the Vietnamese-backed Phnom Penh government in February.



Burmese overseas students shout slogans during a demonstration outside the Burmese embassy in Bangkok yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Bonn sceptical on Gorbachev's proposal

'Germany out of Nato military command'

West German officials reacted sceptically today to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's proposal that a united Germany could belong to Nato's political organisation but must stay out of its military command.

Gorbachev raised this possibility yesterday during a Moscow visit by French President Francois Mitterrand.

"I asked (Mitterrand) the question, why a united Germany cannot be in a situation like France, which is a member of the political organisation of Nato but not of its military organisation. It is also an option,"

Gorbachev said.

West German officials said Bonn would study the proposal carefully but they made clear it was unlikely to find much favour. "We cannot warm to this idea," said one official who asked not to be named. "We look at this rather sceptically."

Officials rejected comparisons between the positions of France and Germany. "Nato would take on an entirely new quality" if Germany, on the front line between East and West, was not part of the alliance's military structure, one official said.

'Special forces' proposal criticised

WASHINGTON, May 26. (Reuters): A recommendation that US special forces, whose tasks include fighting terrorists, be allowed to form a special unit to gather intelligence around the world ran into fierce criticism in the Senate Armed Services Committee.

Chairman Sam Nunn said such independence had created problems in the past, apparently referring to the Iran-Contra scandal in which Lieutenant Colonel Oliver North admitted supplying weapons to Nicaraguan rebels in defiance of a congressional ban.

"There have been some real problems on this in history," said Nunn, a Democrat. "We want to make sure those are not repeated."

The controversy surfaced at the committee's confirmation hearing for Lieutenant General Carl Stiner, who has been nominated by President George Bush to command the elite special operations forces.

The special forces are trained to fight terrorists, move against drug traffickers and conduct special missions such as rescuing Americans from foreign trouble spots.

Senator John Warner, the committee's ranking Republican, told Stiner his confirmation might be held up until senators' concerns are satisfied.

Warner said according to the recommendation, inspired by the US invasion of Panama, the special forces command would be required to get approval only from the secretary of defence for a special unit to gather intelligence for prospective operations.

All such special intelligence activities must now be approved by officials in the White House, Central Intelligence Agency and Departments of State, Defence and Justice, a procedure that critics say takes about a month.

A committee of experts wants the government to know a lot more about the personal finances of workers with access to top secrets because money has become the root of modern spying.

The experts' appeal for 13 new laws was warmly received by the Senate Intelligence Committee, whose chairman, David Boren, and vice-chairman, William Cohen, set them to work nine months ago.

Nevertheless, as the experts presented their report, Democratic and Republican senators indicated they might revise the proposals to introduce additional protections for civil liberties.

Also a special Senate panel on recommended measures including surprise lie detector tests and inspections of personal finances in an effort to halt spying by US military and government workers.

The panel of advisers appointed by the Senate Intelligence Committee recommended laws intended to detect and punish spies like John Walker, a former US navy officer who ran an espionage ring for Moscow for 17 years.



Yeltsin speaks under a statue of Lenin as he reveals his manifesto at the Russian Parliament May 25. (Reuters wirephoto)

Yeltsin fails to win runoff

Victory for Gorbachev

MOSCOW, May 26. (AP): Boris Yeltsin failed today to win a runoff election for the presidency of the Soviet Union's largest republic, and Russian Republic lawmakers now must take new nominations.

Yeltsin is considered one of national President Mikhail Gorbachev's main rivals, and his failure to win the runoff was a major victory for the Soviet leader.

Yeltsin won 503 votes, 28 short of the necessary majority of the 1,060-member congress. His rival, communist party functionary Ivan Polozhov, received 497 votes.

Lawmakers said Yeltsin, 59, may run again, or that a compromise candidate with better chances of winning a majority will be nominated. The lawmakers were scheduled to resume their session Monday.

In Friday's first round of voting by the Russian Congress, Yeltsin won 497 votes, short of the 531 he needed for an absolute majority.

The candidate backed by Gorbachev, Russian Premier Alexander Vlasov, withdrew from

the race yesterday after it became clear he lacked Yeltsin's popularity.

During his campaign, Yeltsin angered Gorbachev with calls for sovereignty for the Russian Republic, which includes Moscow, the seat of national leadership. Russia by far the largest of the nation's 15 republics, contains more than two-thirds of the country's territory and half the Soviet populace.

Gorbachev accused Yeltsin of being anti-socialist and said his plans for Russian autonomy would mean "the breakup of the Soviet Union."

Yeltsin pledged that if elected he would defend the republic from Kremlin interference, but also said he would be able to work with Gorbachev.

Yeltsin told the Russian Congress of People's Deputies of his plans to promote Russian sovereignty, establish a market economy, increase housing and fill stores with consumer goods.

He blasted the national government programme announced Thursday for a transition to a free-market economy.

Appeal to halt executions

KUALA LUMPUR, May 26. (UPI): An attorney representing eight Hong Kong citizens sentenced to be hanged for drug offences said today he has appealed to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed to stop Malaysia's largest mass execution.

"We're doing whatever we can, and it's not the end of the road," said Karpal Singh, with the eight all scheduled to be hanged Wednesday.

Britain's Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher has appealed for a pardon for the Hong Kong nationals, and Amnesty International also made a plea for clemency. Ashe Windham, first secretary at the British High Commission, said the commissioner had outlined Britain's position to the Malaysian Foreign Ministry.

But government officials said a reprieve from the gallows was unlikely. The eight were arrested at the

international airport on the resort island of Penang in October, 1982 for possessing 28 pounds (12.7 kilograms) of heroin. They were convicted in May, 1985.

* Found guilty of trafficking were Au King Chor, 32, and Chan Yiu Tim, 33, both transport workers, driver Yuen Kwok Kwan, 28, waitress Hau Tsui Ling, 32, and Li Chi Ping, 28, a waiter.

Convicted of abetting the five were company supervisor Ip Tak Ming, 36, Ng Yiu Kwok, 37, director of an insurance company and car dealer Chow Sing, 42.

The pardons board in Penang rejected an appeal for clemency in March.

After visiting Hau and Chow at Kajang prison on the outskirts of the capital along with Hau's 13-year-old daughter and Chow's 23-year-old daughter, Singh said, "it was a very emotional sight."



Singh shows reporters a note written in Chinese by Hau Sze-Man, 13, addressed to the Malaysian King.



Nicu Ceausescu on the first day of his trial in Sibiu May 26. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nicu denies ordering to shoot

Claims he was aware protestors had no guns

SIBIU, Romania, May 26. (AP): Nicu Ceausescu, the youngest son of executed dictator Nicolae Ceausescu, denied at the start of his trial today that he ordered army and police to shoot demonstrators during last December's revolution.

"He testified at the nationally televised trial that on the morning of Dec 22, police and leaders of the local Securitate secret police told him they were being shot at by demonstrators and asked what to do."

"Take your archives and don't shoot at anybody," Nicu said he responded.

Nicu, 40, at the time was the

Communist Party regional secretary in Sibiu county in southern Transylvania, 250 kilometres (about 150 miles) northwest of Bucharest.

He testified today that he told the Securitate and police officials that he knew the demonstrators had no guns because he had no reports of any arsenals being looted.

A state of emergency had been declared on Dec 21 but the civilian patriotic guard had been initially armed only with clubs.

To try to find out what was happening in Bucharest, since nobody was answering the phones in either his mother or

father's offices Nicu said he called then - Interior Minister Tudor Postelnicu.

"I asked him who was behind all this and he said 'Iliescu or Manescu.' And I asked which Manescu and he said 'Corneliu, the dead one,' Nicu testified.

Ion Iliescu, a Communist Party politburo member who fell out with Ceausescu, became interim president during the revolution and won a landslide victory in Sunday's presidential election, the first free ballot in Romania in 53 years.

Corneliu Manescu, a well-known Romanian Ambassador to France, also fell out with

Ceausescu and had been retired at the time of the revolution. He is now the chief foreign affairs expert in Iliescu's National Salvation Front.

Ceausescu and his wife Elena, the country's deputy prime minister, were forced to flee Bucharest later on Dec 22 after the military joined the demonstrators to overthrow his regime. They were arrested, convicted of genocide at a summary military trial and executed on Christmas Day.

Nicu was arrested Dec 22 on the outskirts of Bucharest.

(See also Page 8)

Grapo hunger striker dies in Madrid hospital

MADRID, May 26. (AP): One of a group of convicted terrorists who began a hunger strike six months ago to protest prison conditions died yesterday of a heart attack, a local hospital said.

Law enforcement officials said police had been put on alert in case of possible reprisals by the tiny, extreme left-wing Grapo group.

Jose Manuel Sevillano Martin, a Grapo member serving a 24-year sentence for terrorism, was transferred to Gregorio Maranon

hospital from prison June 15 because of his weakened condition.

A statement issued yesterday by the hospital said Sevillano was on a respirator when he died in the hospital's Intensive Care Unit.

A group of 52 of the 81 imprisoned Grapo members began the strike November 30 to protest a Justice Ministry policy that dispersed Grapo convicts among prisons across the country to reduce the influence on them of leaders who remain at large.

Forty of the 81 continue the hunger strike, according to prison officials.

On March 30 a woman shot and killed a doctor in the northern central city of Zaragoza who had helped force-feed the Grapo members during their hunger strike.

The woman was not caught, but police believe she is a member of the tiny organisation that takes its name from the Spanish initials standing for the first of October revolutionary anti-Fascist group.

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Gorby takes hard line

MOSCOW, May 26, (Reuters): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev returned to a hard line against Lithuania yesterday and one of his top generals flew to "prevent bloodshed" in the southern republic Armenia.

Gorbachev appeared to rule out special measures to speed up Lithuania's return to independence — even if the rebellious republic were to freeze its March 11 independence declaration — but promised goodwill if it accepted the Kremlin's timetable.

With French President Francois Mitterrand at his side, Gorbachev also told a news conference that Western insistence on a United Germany being a full member of Nato could force Moscow to reconsider its attitude to European détente.

Gorbachev suggested Moscow might accept Germany as a political member of Nato, like France. But military membership would cause the Soviet Union "to give more thought to what is going on, about what we should do about all the negotiating processes, including the European process".

On Lithuanian independence, Gorbachev said: "Our constitution provides for a period of not less than five years ... let us return to the position of March 10 and start the constitutional process. We will show goodwill."

Tass news agency said General Yuri Shatalin, commander of Soviet interior troops, was flying to Yerevan, capital of the southern republic Armenia, to head off bloodshed.

Explosive
Tass said an Armenian militant and a soldier were killed in the disputed Nagorno-Karabakh enclave of Azerbaijan on Thursday. Shatalin said militant groups in Armenia were building up arsenals and the situation was explosive.

As tension mounted in outlying republics, the Kremlin's aim of creating a market economy to rescue the sick Soviet system, with steep price rises as a first step, prompted Moscow city government to restrict food sales to residents only.

Interfax news agency said a run on food and other products started as soon as Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov announced the reforms on Thursday. "Sales of oats, flour, butter and a series of other goods rose by a factor of six to eight," it said.

"There are already shortages of vital goods."

Prime Minister Ryzhkov threatened to resign if the reforms failed to win support, apparently fearing confrontation in the Ukraine, where miners said they might call a national strike.

Moscow's blockade of Lithuania bit deeper yesterday. "Today we cut off the supplies of hot water and steam to all enterprises except those of vital importance, such as food and food-processing plants," said Alexander Ambrazavicius, of Lithuania's anti-blockade committee.

In Moscow, Lithuanian Deputy Nikolai Medvedev said Gorbachev told him he wanted a peaceful solution. Asked if Gorbachev thought Lithuania could gain full independence, Medvedev said:

"He clearly said it was completely acceptable. He even said it was in (the Soviet Union's) interests to have a good neighbour than a constantly bleeding wound in the country."

Lithuania's prime minister said today her rebel Baltic republic could be independent in two years and that attempts to stop that process could cost Gorbachev his job.

Kazimiera Prunskiene told Reuters the independence movement in the Baltic states and events in Russia were natural processes that could not be stopped.

Gorbachev appeared to rule out special measures to speed up sovereignty, saying the constitution provided for a period of no less than five years.

Asked about this, Prunskiene said: "I believe it is also possible to achieve (independence) in up to two years."

Earlier in the week, a senior Lithuanian official had said Gorbachev had offered to push through independence in two or three years if the republic suspended its declaration.

Lithuania said the offer was not enough, but Prunskiene left the door open for negotiations. "We are ready to reach agreement and mutual understanding through negotiations on this transitional process," she said before talks with West Berlin's governing mayor, Walter Momper.

London think tank calls Warsaw Pact dead

LONDON, May 26, (AP): The Soviet-led Warsaw Pact is dead as a military alliance and will probably fall apart when East Germany leaves it, says the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

The West's main dilemma in the 1990s will be how far to get involved in the "messy aftermath", the London-based research centre said in its annual strategic survey.

Even without a clear threat from the East, the 16-nation Nato alliance could

serve as "an insurance policy" for a future undivided Europe, but its role needs a complete redefinition, the survey said.

"In early 1989 ... the key question had been 'whether Nato?' it said. "A year later that question remains valid. ... But a second question, 'whether Nato?' lies not far below the surface."

The survey said the Soviet Union "appears to be sliding towards chaos, and how long, and how much of it will

remain together are very much open questions."

At a news conference, IISS director Francois Heisbourg said there was no possibility that the seven-nation Warsaw Pact "could act as a single organisation in warlike circumstances" where it was the aggressor.

"But Nato as an insurance policy is indispensable to the extent that the countries of Western Europe and the United States consider they have in common a number of interests along

side a number of values," said Heisbourg.

On other regions, the survey said:

— Middle East: Egypt has supplanted Syria as the pre-eminent power in the Arab world, gaining status from attempts to mediate peace between Israel and the PLO. Syria weakened its position by trying to achieve strategic parity with Israel. "In the 1990s it is Egypt's capacity to moderate and mediate between the Arab states and outsiders, as well as between the

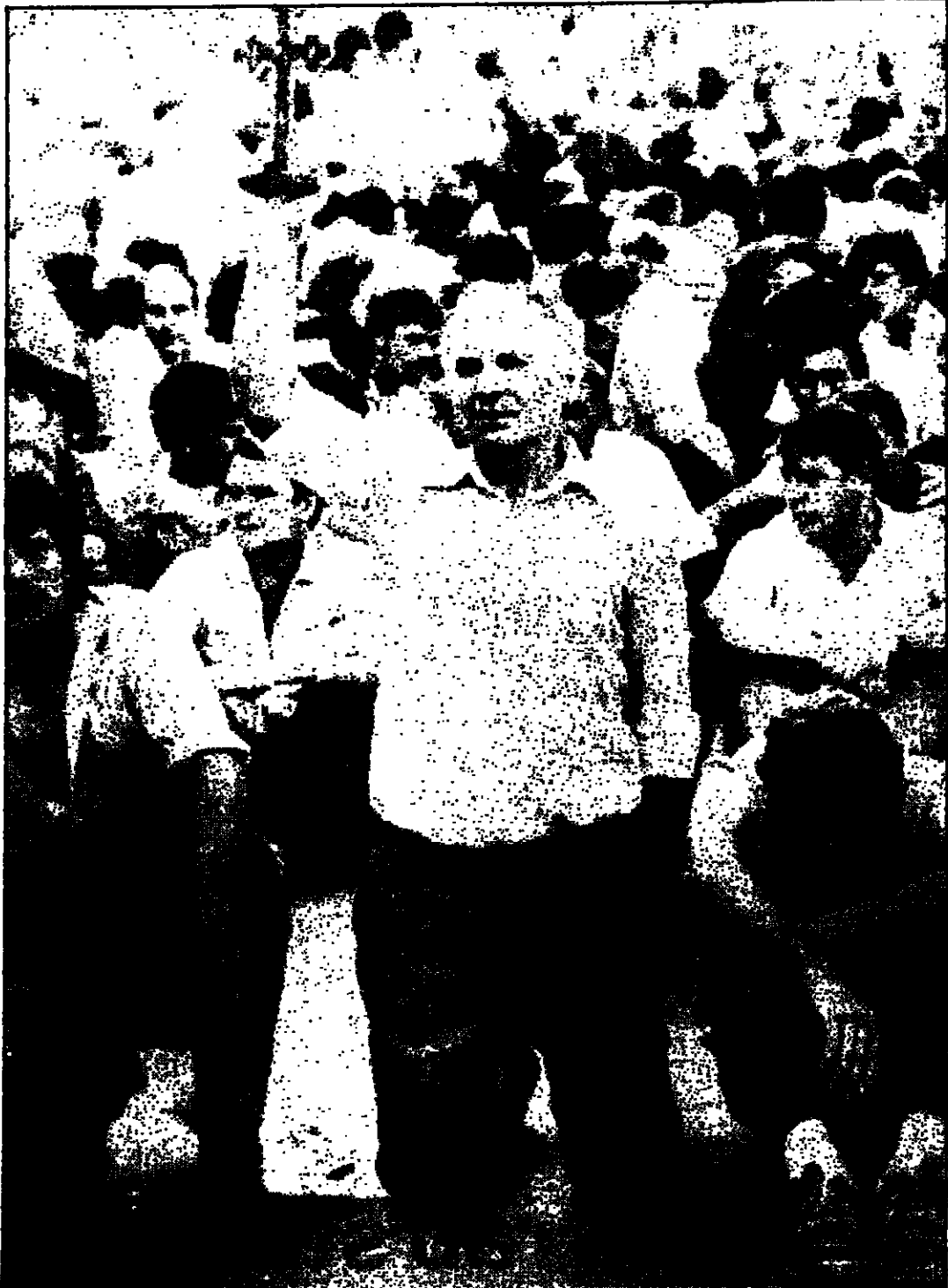
insecure Arab governments themselves, which will be put to the test."

— South Africa: The reform process begun by South African President F. W. de Klerk is "irreversible," and both black and white leaders are under pressure to compromise to reach a quick agreement. "It is a high-risk venture which could easily be derailed by radical elements in both black and white ranks."

— East Asia: North Korea's military preparations "believe the claim that it no

longer represents a threat to the South. "There are reports North Korea is stockpiling on chemical weapons and building a nuclear weapon."

— Afghanistan: A military stalemate between President Najib's pro-Soviet administration and mujahideen rebels offers no prospect of a settlement. "The alternative — a revision to a 1989-linked agglomeration of semi-feudal fiefdoms, with no writ running countrywide — appears no less possible and might be as durable."



Anti-govt protest

A Romanian anti-government protester knelt among his colleagues raises a cross during a rally on Thursday at University square in Bucharest as they block the street to

confront the National Salvation Front supporters trying to get into square. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jordan Islamic court rules divorce from wife

Writer found guilty of apostasy

AMMAN, May 26, (AP): Jordan's Islamic court today found Jordanian journalist and writer Ibrahim Abu Naab guilty of apostasy — abandoning Islam — and ruled that he should be divorced from his wife and separated from his children.

Khaled Oreiqat, a judge of the court, told the Associated Press in a telephone interview that the ruling would not be finalised pending confirmation by the civil appeal court.

Contacted at his home by the Associated Press after the announcement of the court's ruling Abu Naab said: "I must say that the court is wrong, and that it has no such auth-

ority from God or the constitution," he added.

Abu Naab was charged on April 23 by Islamic court Prosecutor-General Abdullah Shamayleh with apostasy on the grounds that the writer converted to the Qadimi religion by signing a paper at a meeting of the sect in Telford, Britain in June, 1987.

Abu Naab testified last week that he did not convert to the Qadimi sect but had attended the conference "in my capacity as a journalist."

"I signed that paper to have access to the meeting because they did not allow me to

attend the conference unless I was a member of the group," he explained in the interview after the court verdict.

Judge Oreiqat said on the telephone that Abu Naab had testified to the court that he was a Muslim.

"To his benefit, we have proof that he did not fulfill one of the prerequisites for being a Qadimi, which is to pay 16 per cent of his income to the group."

"They cannot just separate me from my husband. Islam is a religion of peace and understanding," said Mrs Abu Naab, who was also contacted at her home by telephone.

Geagea and Aoun agree to end war

BEIRUT, May 26, (AP): Vatican Ambassador Pablo Puente said today that rival Christian leaders Gen. Michel Aoun and militia leader Samir Geagea have agreed to end their 117-day war. But police said snipers killed three people.

Puente told a news conference that in separate contacts he held with the two they agreed that a nine-day-old ceasefire "will become a permanent truce."

But despite Puente's optimistic declaration, police said Aoun's troops and Geagea's Lebanese Forces militiamen exchanged intermittent sniper fire in East Beirut, killing three people and wounding one.

That raised the casualty toll to 1,035 killed and 2,770 wounded since the power struggle between the two leaders broke out Jan 30. "Independent observers doubted that the power struggle will end until Aoun and Geagea can work out a political settlement and overcome their deep-seated hatred of each other."

Before agreeing to the ceasefire May 17, Aoun's 19,000 troops and the 6,000-hardcore fighters of Geagea's militia, backed by some 30,000 reservists, fought each other to a standstill in their war for control of the Christian enclave north of Beirut.

The inconclusive power struggle forced about 400,000 of enclave's one million population to seek refuge in safer areas and left large areas of the Christian enclave in ruins.

There was no immediate comment from either Geagea or Aoun on Puente's remarks.

The Vatican ambassador said the two leaders agreed to halt propaganda campaigns against each other and to release all prisoners.

Puente's remarks came one day after some 30 Christian religious leaders called for consolidating the ceasefire in the 310 square mile (800 square kilometre) enclave as a prelude to a political settlement between Geagea and Aoun.

● In Lebanon's other factional power struggle, Syrian troops intervened early today to halt 15 hours of street battles in West and South Beirut between rival Shiite Muslim factions in which five people were killed and 42 wounded.

But police said the situation remained "very tense" as the mainstream Syrian-backed Amal movement and the fundamentalist pro-Iranian Hezbollah, kept their fighters on "maximum alert."

A police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing regulations, said civilians were evacuating the densely-populated Shiite districts, fearing renewed fighting.

Beirut's independent An-Nahar daily warned of a "big explosion if categorical measures are not taken quickly" to defuse the explosive situation.

Amal and Hezbollah have been battling on and off for 2 1/2 years for dominance of Lebanon's 1.2 million Shiites, the country's largest sect.



Arafat holds up a map that he said showed "greater Israel" (right) that Israel made into a coin (left) during his address at the UN in Geneva. (Reuters wirephoto)



Israeli deputy Foreign Minister Benjamin Netanyahu points to a chart as he faces reporters at the United Nations on Friday. The chart shows the terrorist acts committed since PLO leader Yasser Arafat denounced terrorism when he addressed the Security Council in Dec, 1988. (Reuters wirephoto)

Parliaments merge Yemenis rejoice

SANAA, May 26, (Reuters): Thousands of Yemenis waving daggers and flags celebrated today as the parliaments of North and South merged into a single assembly to start enacting laws for a four-day-old unified state.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh told the 301 legislators that "responsibility now rests on you to discuss about 45 draft laws, which must be speeded up to enable the government to carry out its functions."

Sanaa radio said a majority of the new Parliament endorsed the unity government appointed on Thursday and chose the former prime minister of the socialist South, Yassien Said No'man, as its first Speaker.

Saleh, an army officer who was head of state in the traditionalist North, proclaimed unification on Tuesday, ending more than three centuries of divisions in the fertile but underdeveloped southeast corner of the Arabian peninsula.

As the Parliament met, thousands gathered at Sanaa's main football stadium to watch a parade of students and listen to speeches praising the birth of a Yemeni republic of 12 million people.

Exuberant men danced in the isles chanting "one Yemen" and waving curved, broad-bladed daggers. Helicopters hovered above.

Diplomats say sharply different legal, political and economic systems will make the first few months of marriage difficult.

Officials shuttled between Sanaa and Aden over the past month drafting laws on everything from taxes and customs duties to education, banking and trade unions.

Swiss hostages still alive

GENEVA, May 26, (Reuters): PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has told the Swiss government that two Red Cross hostages in Lebanon are still alive and he will do all he can to get them freed, the Foreign Ministry said today.

Arafat met a Foreign Ministry official last evening, during a special UN Security Council session in Geneva, and told him that he was willing to do all he could to speed the release of Elio Enriquez and Emmanuel Christian, both Swiss.

A ministry spokeswoman in Bern told Reuters that Arafat did not provide details of what was holding the two orthodox workers or what the demands were.

The men, on the staff of the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross, were seized on October 6 in the port city of Sidon.

Palestinian sources have backed the abduction to the imprisonment in Switzerland of Lebanese Shiite Muslim hijacker Hussein Mohammed Hariri.

Friends of British hostage John marked his 1,500th day in captivity in Lebanon by handing in a petition at Downing Street, it was reported today.

Sudan quake leaves 300,000 homeless;

KHARTOUM, May 26, (AP): A continuing swarm of very strong aftershocks to last weekend's major earthquake in southern Sudan has left 300,000 people without shelter, a government official said today. No deaths have been reported.

Every government building in a government garrison town north of southern Sudan's main city, Juba, has been destroyed, he said.

Observatories and monitoring stations in Hong Kong, the United States and Egypt registered a quake Thursday night of 7.1 on the Richter scale. It started the current swarm of aftershocks to a tremor

last Sunday with a Richter reading of 7.4, capable of causing widespread damage but apparently causing almost none.

Brigadier Dominique Kasiano, a member of Sudan's ruling junta and political supervisor of the southern Equatoria region, appealed for international help for the people whose homes have been destroyed.

He said aftershocks have brought down many private dwellings and all the government buildings in Terakeka, a Nile river garrison town 55 miles (88 km) north of Juba.

Khartoum appeals for international aid

In Cairo, the head of Egypt's monitoring service said the unit's seismographs have recorded almost continual aftershocks since Thursday night's big one, including one reported by Juba residents this morning.

Geologist Rashad M. Kebeasy said three strong quakes Thursday night followed within an hour of the 7.1 aftershock. They became progressively weaker, with Richter readings of 6.3, 6.6 and 5.2. Between then and midday today, he said, the only significant quake registered 6.1 on the Richter scale.

Medical relief workers in Juba, 750 miles (1200

km) south of Khartoum, reported feeling 10 tremors Thursday night.

The Richter is a gauge of the energy released, as measured by ground motion recorded on a seismograph. Every increase of a whole number means the ground motion is 10 times greater.

Kebeasy, president of Egypt's National Research Institute of Astronomy and Geophysics, said the worst appears to be over.

An earthquake with a Richter magnitude of 6 can cause severe damage, 7 widespread and heavy damage.



United Nations official stands by his car on May 25 and watches as a combined force of Israeli army soldiers and border police go into Anabta refugee camp. (Reuters wirephoto)



An Arab boy steps out of the way on May 25 as an Israeli border policeman orders his troops to move on through an Old City alleyway after Friday prayers. (Reuters wirephoto)

Lenient penalty fuels attacks

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM. May 26. (AP): Israeli human rights activists and Palestinian leaders say lenient punishments for anti-Arab attacks were a key reason behind the anger that triggered a wave of unrest after the shooting deaths of seven Gaza labourers.

Few Israelis suspected of slaying Arabs have been brought to court since the start of the 29-month-old Palestinian uprising. Counting Sunday's shooting and subsequent riots in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, 702 Palestinians have died in Israeli gunfire in the uprising. Another 216 have been slain by fellow Arabs as suspected Israeli collaborators. Forty-three Israelis have died in the violence. But since December 1987, of the cases of Palestinians killed by Israeli civilians, only five have resulted in trials, sentencing or indictments, says Betzelem, an Israeli human rights group.

The stiffest sentence for murder has been three years in prison. Palestinians convicted of murder almost always get life sentences and their homes are demolished.

"The government is responsible because they don't punish enough someone who does that," said Jamal Abu Daka, one of the 11 wounded in Sunday's attack near Tel Aviv, speaking from a hospital bed.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and other Israeli leaders reacted swiftly to the attack on the Palestinian labourers.

"We are in shock from this criminal act," Shamir's spokesman Avi Pazner said. "He (the suspect) will be brought to trial and punished for what he did."

Palestinian leaders were sceptical about the expressions of regret.

Condemnation from politicians isn't enough," Bethlehem mayor Elias Freij told Israel radio. "What is needed are jail sentences for people who commit such crimes against Arabs."

In the last three years, the stiffest sentence for killing an Arab was passed on Jewish settler Yisrael Zeev from Shilo in the West Bank. He is serving a three-year jail sentence for shooting to death a shepherd from a nearby village in 1988.

Another settler has been sentenced to five and a half years in jail for shooting and wounding two Arabs near Tel Aviv a year ago.

Only one other Israeli, firebrand settlement leader rabbi Moshe Levinger, has been sentenced for slaying a Palestinian.

He got a five-month sentence after a plea bargain, for causing the death of a merchant in Hebron during a stone-throwing incident in 1989. Dozens of settlers carried Levinger to jail on their shoulders last week.

Such cases as the 1988 burning of a shack near Tel Aviv, which resulted in the death of three Arab labourers, and the April 1989 shooting attack by a man in Army uniform in occupied Jerusalem that left one Palestinian dead and three wounded, have not been resolved.

Arab youths convicted of stone-throwing attacks usually get tough sentences even when no injury is caused.

For example, a Ramallah military court last year sentenced 15-year-old Munzer Zaatar to 10 months in jail for a rock-throwing incident in which nobody was hurt.

Palestinian attorney Ali Gozlan noted a recent case of an Arab youth in Jerusalem who got four years for damaging a car by a stoning although nobody was hurt.

The army has failed to apprehend many of the Palestinians suspected of slaying Israeli civilians during the uprising, but those Arabs who are caught and tried for murder are severely punished.

The worst Arab attack of the uprising was last July when a Gaza man forced a passenger bus into a deep ravine, killing 16 people. He was sentenced to life in prison.

Three Palestinians who firebombed an Israeli bus in Jericho in the West Bank, killing a mother and three children, on Oct 30, 1988, were also given life sentences in the past year.

Israeli officials argue that the heavy crackdown on Palestinian violence is an essential deterrent needed to contain unrest in the territories occupied by Israel since the 1967 Middle East war.

Most of the Israelis involved in shooting Arabs also claim they have acted in self-defence, often in response to a stoning attack on a highway.

Still, left-wing legislators and Palestinian activists argue that the leniency towards Jewish perpetrators fails to create enough of a deterrent to vigilante acts.

Israel army lift Nablus curfew

Hamas urges US goods boycott

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM. May 26. (Agencies): The Israeli Army lifted a curfew from Nablus, the largest West Bank town, today, but the Gaza Strip remained under curfew for a seventh day.

The curfews were imposed May 20 following the killing of seven Arab workers by an Israeli in the town of Rishon LeZion. Despite the harsh security measures, rioting spread throughout the territories. Sixteen Palestinians were killed and hundreds wounded in the violence that tapered off toward the end of the week.

The territories were relatively quiet today, Palestinian sources said, as the UN Security Council met for a second day to discuss the upsurge in violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

After the curfew on Nablus was lifted, some Arab residents demonstrated but no injuries were reported, Palestinian sources said.

Stores opened for about two hours in the city of 105,000, then closed to observe a three-day commercial strike called to protest the deaths of Palestinians during the week. The army also ended the curfew on Ramallah.

The army reimposed curfews on the Gaza Strip villages of Beit Hanun and Beit Lahia, making the curfew on the impoverished territory complete. The army has said it is trying to exercise "maximum restraint" to prevent further casualties.

Two Gazans were wounded by plastic covered metal bullets in clashes yesterday, Palestinian sources said.

In Arab east Jerusalem, police arrested 15 Palestinian demonstrators near the US consulate after stones were thrown at a patrol and tyres burned, police and Palestinian sources said.

In its leaflet 57, the clandestine Palestine leadership of the 29-month-old uprising called for an escalation of the struggle against Israeli occupation and instructed Arabs not to co-operate with military civil administration until June 10.

A number of Palestinian and Arab students today staged a sit-in at Palestinian embassy in Moscow to protest the brutal massacre of Palestinian labourers near Tel Aviv last Sunday.

The students delivered speeches expressing their strong anger and dismay towards the crime of the Israeli gunman who killed unarmed Palestinian civilians and wounded 16 others. The Islamic fundamentalist group helping to direct the Palestinian uprising has urged Arab leaders meeting in Baghdad to order a boycott of American goods because of Washington's support for Israel.

In a letter to the summit beginning in Baghdad on Monday, the Islamic resistance movement Hamas also called on Arabs to form a joint army for the "liberation of Palestine."

Several Japanese civic bodies today sent cables of condemnation to the Israeli Zionist entity over the massacres perpetrated against the Palestinian people in their occupied homeland.

In a protest note to the Israeli government, the Japanese Movement for Peace and Democracy (MPD) condemned the criminal acts against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Japan Women's Congress said in a protest telegram to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir "with strong indignance we protest acts against Palestinians in the occupied territories."

Presiding Bishop Edmond Browning of the Episcopal Church, in a letter to President Bush, said yesterday the United States should consider ending aid to Israel until it stops "violating the fundamental human rights of an occupied people."

Browning, in his 1 1/2-page letter to Bush — an Episcopal Church communication — praised the president for the concerns the administration has expressed over the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories since the slaying last weekend of seven Arab workers by an Israeli.

Inmate charged for stabbing Hamadi in arm

Attempt on TWA hijacker's life

FRANKFURT. West Germany, May 26. (AP): An attorney for convicted TWA hijacker Mohammed Ali Hamadi said yesterday that another inmate recently tried to kill his client in prison.

Lawyer Hans-Burkhardt Steck also said his office has filed charges against the inmate, whom he identified as "an Israeli named Mashia."

"He tried to stab Hamadi in the neck with a knife. It was just luck that Hamadi reacted quickly and suffered only a cut on his arm," the Frankfurt-based lawyer said.

Hamadi, a Lebanese Shiite Muslim, is serving a life sentence for the murder of a US sailor during the 1985 TWA hijacking.

The lawyer said Mashia's first name was

Youssefi that he had recently been jailed on a conviction for illegal drug deals and had been kept in the same prison area as Hamadi.

"He (Mashia) is an Israeli citizen, and had bothered Hamadi before, but prison officials didn't do anything to put him in a separate area," Steck said.

Hamadi is believed to be a member of Hezbollah, in Beirut, a group Western officials say is responsible for numerous kidnappings in Lebanon. The group is reportedly holding US and Israeli hostages.

Asked if he believed the attack on Hamadi may have been directed from outside the prison Steck said, "I don't want to make such an assumption."

Steck said the incident occurred on May 5

as the inmates at Frankfurt's Preungesheim prison were left out of their cells for a "free period" within the jail confines.

Although Hamadi did not require stitches, a 15-centimetre long cut on his arm had to be bandaged, Steck said.

"We have filed attempted murder charges against the attacker," Steck said.

Steck told the Associated Press that Frankfurt justice officials described the incident as a normal altercation that sometimes occurs among prison inmates.

A spokesman for Frankfurt prosecutor's office, Jochen Schroers, said he could not provide any immediate information on the attack or whether charges had been filed in the case.

Arabs ambush Rashaya militias

RASHAYA, Lebanon, May 26. (AP): Palestinian commandos ambushed a convoy of Israeli-backed militias in south Lebanon today inflicting and undisclosed number of casualties and losing four of their men, Lebanese security sources reported.

The Marxist Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said in a series of communiqués issued in Beirut that its fighters carried out the attack to avenge the massacre of seven Palestinian workers by an Israeli gunman near Tel Aviv last Sunday.

The Lebanese sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a commando force detonated three remote-control bombs on a road inside Israel's self-designated "security zone" north of the border with the Jewish state as the South Lebanon Army convoy passed.

But an Israeli army spokesman in Tel Aviv said there were no SLA casualties, but reported that the militias killed four commandos. He made no mention of bombs.

The Israeli version indicated that a patrol of the mainly Christian SLA intercepted an infiltration attempt rather than the militias were ambushed.

The clash came as a special United Nations Security Council session in Geneva debated the Palestine issue.

Palestine Liberation Organisation chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday accused the Israelis of waging a "war of extermination" against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and called for an emergency UN Peacekeeping Force to deploy there.

The Popular Front, which is part of the PLO, said in one communiqué: "The heroic operation was our response to the massacre committed by the Zionist enemy against the workers of Palestine."

The Syrian-based group acknowledged that it lost four "martyrs in the daring operation."

It said the raiders "detonated remote-controlled bombs beside an enemy convoy, inflicting a number of casualties."

One Lebanese source said the SLA convoy of two armoured personnel carriers and two jeeps was hit near Shebaa in the eastern sector of the Israeli zone.

"The two jeeps were knocked out and one of the APCs was severely damaged," the source said.

Israelis must talk

Hassan warns of fundamentalism

NEW YORK, May 26. (Reuters): Jordan's Crown Prince Hassan Bin Talal has said moderate Arabs and Israelis must talk to one another because the real danger to peace is growing religious fundamentalism.

Writing on the opinion page of today's New York Times, the crown prince said unless Arabs and

Israelis fashioned "their own special glasnost," growing violence and terrorism would lead to a war which neither side would win.

He said the killings of innocent Palestinians by an Israeli in the occupied territories and the "subsequent popular uproar and agitation" underscored this need.

Arab summits

'Fall short of hopes'

BAGHDAD, May 26. (Reuters): With a new summit starting on Monday and mindful that their leaders have met 18 times in 26 years, ordinary Arabs complain that the costly events seldom live up to their opening fanfares and pledges of unity.

As Baghdad prepares for the 19th summit Iraqi commentators, reflecting the ambitions of President Saddam Hussein, predicted this would be the one to remember.

"The Baghdad summit is the summit of summits... it can be the summit of change in Arab political life, a chance for the Arabs and peoples of the Third World to assert their identity," said columnist Mazhar Aref in Al Iraq newspaper.

A row between Iraq and Western countries over its military programme and Arab anger at an influx of Soviet Jews to Israel are top of the emergency summit's agenda.

Lutfi Waked, writing in the daily Al Jumhuriya, said the meeting had special import for the future of the Arab homeland.

"We hope this conference will show the world that the Arabs are a single force which cannot be broken, piece by piece and in stages," he said.

But Syria, a key element in any feasible Middle East settlement, is boycotting the meeting hosted by its arch-rival Iraq. Damascus says the talks are a propaganda play by Hussein.

Lebanon's Syrian-backed government, which ironically owes its existence to a summit in Casablanca a year ago, is also staying away.

The outspoken Algerian press is already dismissing the Baghdad summit as of no practical use in the absence of Syria.

"The great Arab show to the glory of (Iraqi President) Saddam Hussein... in Baghdad already foreshadows the dream of the new Arab supranation," said the Algerian weekly Algerie Actualite.

The Casablanca summit, one of the longest and most bitter since the first in Cairo in 1964, backed a PLO peace initiative and asked Algeria, Morocco and Saudi Arabia to mediate in war-torn Lebanon.

But Israel still refuses to talk to the PLO and Lebanon's agony continues.

Non-kosher foods
Shamir keeps mum

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM. May 26. (AP): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and former Defence Minister Ariel Sharon remained mum yesterday about charges by a powerful rabbi that they frequently eat non-kosher foods such as pork and shellfish.

"I won't comment on this," said Shamir aide Avi Pazner.

Asia, has settled back to more peaceful ways. It played host in February 1989 to the founding summit of the Arab Co-operation Council, an alliance set up by Iraq, Egypt, Jordan and North Yemen.

More than four decades of oil revenue have transformed Baghdad from a compact town of less than a million, just emerging from the shadow of the Ottoman Empire, into a sprawling metropolis of 4.5 million, crisscrossed by six-lane expressways.

Its five five-star hotels, completed for the 1982 summit, can more than accommodate next week's

guests and their retinues.

Baghdad has also become more cosmopolitan — immigrant manual workers from Egypt and Sudan rub shoulders with Palestinian professionals.

Two decades of socialism have studied the city with massive examples of socialist realist art — a martyr's memorial, a shrine to the Unknown Soldier and a monument of liberation.

The latest addition is a victory arch formed by crossed swords. The fists which hold the hilts are modelled on those of President Saddam Hussein, 40 times life-size.

Soviets support hunger strikers

Ties with Israel damaged

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM. May 26. (Reuters): Members of a rare Soviet delegation to Israel gave their backing yesterday to Palestinian hunger strikers and said the Jewish state had severely harmed its relations with Moscow.

"We have come here to express our solidarity with the Palestinian people in these very dangerous times," Anatoly Ilyin told reporters in the garden of East Jerusalem's Red Cross offices, where 50 Palestinians are on hunger strike.

The strikers, including leading activists Faisal Hussein, Radwan Abu Ayyash and Sari Nusseibeh, began fasting on Sunday after a deranged Israeli shot dead seven Arab workers.

They demanded among other things international supervision of the occupied territories.

Earlier the five members of the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee visited Arabs wounded in the 29-month-old revolt against Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Committee chairman Mikhail Capitsa, member of the Soviet Parliament and a former deputy foreign minister, said during a hospital visit that Moscow's relations with the Jewish state had suffered badly from the past week's violence.

"During the last week Israel has badly damaged — I would say sabotaged — relations with the Soviet Union."

Fifty Palestinians were fasting today at the Palestine Liberation Organisation office in Ankara in solidarity with Arabs on a hunger strike in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Baghdad makes a comeback as major summit venue after 8 years of war

BAGHDAD, May 26. (Reuters): Baghdad, billing itself as "the city of victory and peace," is basking in its return to diplomatic centre stage after eight years of the Gulf war.

Arab kings and presidents begin an emergency meeting on Monday in the Iraqi capital, shunned as a venue for major summits since 1980 because of the Iran-Iraq conflict.

They will meet in a lavish conference centre built at great expense for a non-aligned summit which should have taken place there in 1982.

The meeting moved to India because Iran and

Syria, Tehran's Arab ally, objected to the venue. Many other countries felt that Baghdad, 120 km (75 miles) from the Iranian border, was not safe for so many heads of state in wartime.

During the war the city, which stretches for 70 km (40 miles) along both banks of the Tigris, suffered frequent Iranian rocket attacks.

Fighting ended with a UN-sponsored ceasefire in August 1988. Iraq hailed it as a victory, although peace talks remain deadlocked.

But Baghdad, once capital of an Arab empire stretching from Algeria to the steppes of Central

هكذا من الأصل

New KU buildings ready by September

Budget symposium begins today

THE Kuwait University Planning Department has since the start of the present academic year planned the construction of a number of new academic buildings to resolve the shortage of space and accommodate the constantly increasing

number of students.

Seyassah, quoting reliable university sources, said that buildings currently under construction are expected to be completed at the outset of the coming academic year 1990/91.

Meanwhile, the Department of Financial Affairs at the university is preparing to hold its second symposium to discuss the preparation and execution of budget projects for the different university faculties and colleges, from today (May 27)

until May 29.

Participants in the symposium will contribute an analytical statement shedding light on problems related to the preparation and implementation of the budget.

UAE calls for united pan-Arab strategy

DOHA, May 26, (Kuna). Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Khalifa Bin Zayed Al Nahayan has called on Arab leaders, meeting in Baghdad on Monday to adopt a united strategy to confront direct and indirect threats threatening pan-Arab security.

Speaking to the Qatari daily Al Rayan in an interview the UAE official said Arab leaders, meeting in an emergency summit in Baghdad May 28, should clear inter-Arab rifts "because the approaching danger will not exclude anyone."

The UAE was the first Arab country to support convocation of the summit out of awareness of the immense danger and challenges facing the Arab nation, he added.

He expressed sincere hope that the Arab leaders would overcome their differences in order to confront the Jewish influx into occupied Arab territories that threaten pan-Arab security.

President Sheikh Zayed Al Nahayan will brief the Arab leaders, during the summit, on the outcome of his Asian tour which was concluded Wednesday to enable Arab leaders of employing such results in the service of Arab and Muslim causes.

Sheikh Khalifa hailed the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and extolled its political and moral achievements.

GCC meeting
RIYADH, May 26, (Kuna). The third meeting for the technical committee of GCC planning undersecretaries opened here today to follow up the integration process among member states.

A communique distributed by the secretariat heretofore said the meeting is to discuss many important issues including a unified index for planning terms and a study of the situation of member countries' planning bodies among other issues.



Farewell reception

Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Athbi Al Sabah held a party at Kuwait International Hotel in honour of the chairman of Petrochemical Industries Company Abdul Baqi Al Nouri and the undersecretary at the Oil Ministry Abdul Rahman Al Sultan on the occasion of their resignation from their posts. The party was attended by a number of personalities and senior officials in the oil sector. Picture shows the oil minister (extreme right) with his guests.

From the courts

10 men jailed for trading in liquor

THE Criminal Court sentenced 10 men to one and a half years each with hard labour for trading in liquor. The 10 people including the owner of a farm, were caught by the police on a private farm and 78 cases of whisky were seized. The accused appealed to the Court of Higher Appeal and the court upheld the sentence on 4 of them and reduced the jail term to only one year on the rest.

THE Criminal Court sentenced Salem to 4 years imprisonment with hard labour for smuggling liquor into Kuwait and sentenced him for another 3 months imprisonment for illegally entering the country. The court ordered the confiscation of the vehicle and the whisky. The court heard that Salem was driving one of two vans that intruded Kuwait's borders during the night. They were intercepted by police patrols but they ran away. The police patrol chased them until they reached Juleeb Al Shuyookh area. There, the patrol exchanged fire with them. It succeeded in hitting a tyre of Salem's vehicle while the second one succeeded in escaping along with the smugglers. Salem was immediately arrested and whisky was seized from him. He confessed in the court on all the charges. The court also ordered his deportation from Kuwait after the sentence.

THE Criminal Court issued a suspended two years imprisonment on a man for possessing liquor and hashish. The court however considered his condi-

tion and decided to suspend the execution of the jail term for three years. The court also fined the man KD 500 but acquitted a second accused. The court heard that the man was driving his car in Mishref desert at 1.00 after midnight. A police patrol became suspicious because of the way he was driving his car. When they stopped him they found two bottles of whisky with him, one of them half and the other full. He was also drunk and they also found a piece of hashish in the car. The defendant told the police he got the hashish from the second accused M. who confessed to the police that he was the seller but denied it in court. The lawyer of the accused told the court that the car his client was driving was not his as he rented it from a rental office. He added that the hashish, thus, might have been kept there by another client. He supplied the court with documents explaining his family condition and that he has three children. For that the court sentenced him to 2 years imprisonment and fined him KD 500 but suspended the execution of the jail term for 3 years.

THE Criminal Court sentenced a man and his wife to 2 years imprisonment each for issuing a dud cheque. The wife issued a check of KD 2,500 and the husband endorsed the check to another man, S. against buying a mobile telephone. The check was found to be dud and the couple were sent to court. They did not attend the court session to defend themselves and were sentenced to 2 years in jail each with hard labour.

National greening programme prepared

THE deputy director general of the Public Authority for Agriculture and Fish Resources Sheikh Athbi Salem Al Ali has said that the authority has prepared a unified national programme for afforestation covering the next 15 years. The authority has selected a number of landscaping projects.

Commenting on projects that have direct relation with landscaping, he said that authority intends to depend on brackish underground water in irrigating public gardens, roads, some motorways as well as house gardens and government buildings. Treated sewage water will be used in irrigation of afforested areas and some areas at motorways.

He added that the present network of brackish and treated sewage water can meet needs of landscaping projects without additional costs. He suggested the allocation of KD 900,000 to survey areas inside the organised housing areas by the authority in co-operation with KISR and Kuwait Municipality. He added that the authority recommended the allocation of KD 953,888 as budgets to establish 9 public gardens in different housing areas beside Sour Public Garden that will cost about KD 2 million. The authority also suggested the allocation of KD 900,000 for detailed studies to make designs of national parks and parks of suburbs of Kuwait City. The authority allocated one million dinars to support landscaping works at government utilities especially health ministry, education ministry, Ministry of Awqaf, Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, airport, and tourist enterprises for two years. The amount will be used only to purchase agricultural materials. These ministries will bring farmers and workers at their own expense. The Petrochemical Industries Company will provide them with fertilizers wanted for landscaping projects in these areas, he said.

Sheikh Athbi pointed out that the authority suggested the allocation of KD 2,500,000 for proposed landscaping works and safety works at motorways that cross Maseelah flyover in present time beside a budget of KD 950,000 for studies to develop the masterplan of treated sewage network that will irrigate motorways. The authority will continue its works during the next 15 years in afforestation projects at Sulabiya and Shadadiya areas as well as spring camps in New Jahra. The suggested costs of these works will reach about KD 1.5 million in two years. The authority suggested a budget of KD 350,000 to afforest the Zour area which will be called the National Park of Kuwait. The studies and designs of the park will cost about KD 250,000 he said.

GCC meeting

THE financial and economic co-operation committee, which comprises GCC ministers of finance and economy, holds a meeting at the GCC secretariat general in Riyadh on June 6 to discuss a number of topics relating to different facets of co-operation between the GCC members in various economic fields, including follow-up of the implementation of items on the GCC unified economic pact in the light of decision adopted during the GCC higher council 10th session held in Muscat last year.

Agro authority to market local produce

THE assistant undersecretary for administrative development affairs and head of the main team assigned to disentangle shared functions among government concerns Dr Nasser Al Sane has said that co-ordination is currently in progress between the Public Authority for Agricultural Affairs and Fish Resources and Kuwait Municipality to undertake marketing of local agro-productions.

He told a local daily that the progress report covered different areas of work achievements. These included the transfer of responsibility over agricultural plots to the authority in line with the principles laid down by the workteam. Formalities currently in progress to complete the required procedure preliminary to receiving the agricultural plots from the municipality.

The report also said that the responsibility over national parks, rangelands, afforestation projects, natural reserves, landscaping works, animal farms, marine fisheries and fish farms will be fully transferred to the authority in line with the official procedures enforced.

He pointed out that the Kuwait Municipality will under the same agreement revise some clauses under the existing Municipality Act No 15 for 1979, leaving our matters relating to the execution and maintenance of parks, tree-planting and supervision work, which is already assigned to the authority.

He said that co-ordination is also in progress between the municipality and the authority to designate special sites inside local markets to market local agro-products.

Privatisation should be properly studied: official

Chronic problems in public sector

PRIVATISATION of some public corporations is an issue that has wide and serious ramifications and this sector's vital importance necessitates that well thought out parameters, based on certain established criterion are adopted, a Kuwaiti official said.

Dr Ayed Al Manna from Kuwait University, speaking at a lecture organised by Al Ardya Co-operative Society entitled "Privatisation of the Public Sector - Justifications and Warnings" gave a comprehensive historical background of the public sector.

Manna said that the ideological, economic, social and political pressures prevailing in the world after the Bolshevik Revolution in the Soviet Union in 1917, led to the projection of the public sector. This involved state supervision with financial and administrative independence in addition to practicing necessary mercantile, industrial and development activities.

The basic concept of the formation of the public sector was simultaneously being accepted by some other countries, including the USA - particularly during the 1930s - in the wake of the 1929 economic crisis which assailed USA financial markets with dramatically dire results.

The official said that in the USA, the public sector was represented in the form of setting up public projects aimed at extending necessary trust facilities to private projects.

Scenario
In Britain, a near identical scenario was being witnessed due to ideological and economic factors prevailing which had emerged after World War II. The British Labour Party, adopted a special policy which permitted it to nationalise some projects. Conversely, the Conservatives after 1951, privatised such projects. In 1979, when the Conservatives, led by Margaret Thatcher took the helm, the private sector achieved many laurels which were represented by denationalisation of several public projects during the 1980s.

Meanwhile, Manna went on to state that the public sector is playing a significant role towards creating job opportunities in the region. What should be appreciated in this respect, he said, is that the private sector undertake its responsibilities without resorting to overstaffing.

Consequently, Manna hypothesised that through its active involvement and expansion into vital services, including the fields of education, health, communication and housing the private sector could also create the necessary job opportunities

and eventually surmount unemployment problems and ensure political stability.

With regard to public projects in the Arab Gulf and the peninsula countries, the lecturer said that establishing these kinds of projects is due to the inability of traditional governmental management to efficiently undertake and supervise these undertakings. As a result, the government had set up these projects either in co-operation with the private sector or accorded them entirely to the private sector. These projects are being governed according to identical methods existing in the private sector administration.

Different
However, he commented that the private sector in the Arab Gulf countries is different than its counterparts in advanced countries. This sector, mainly depends on the margin of developmental projects to be floated for implementation by the relevant countries, through tendering procedures to be awarded to the sector.

Speaking of the private sector in Kuwait, the lecturer said this sector existed before the oil era, but had enhanced its activities and made its presence felt, particularly after national independence in 1961.

Subsequently to 1961, traditional administrative staff of the state had increased which coincided with the appearance of public projects and enhancing private involvement. He said that during the period between 1961-1980, the units of the state administrative organisation had increased from 20 to about 71 units in 1986. The number of employees had increased from 69,516 during the fiscal year 1965/1966, Kuwaitis constituted about 26,881 in that period compared to about 260,761 in 1989. Presently, all government employees represent about 30.5 per cent of the country's total workforce which amounts to 853,955 employees.

Proposals
On the government sector's performance since 1960, Manna said that it suffered chronic problems which impeded its development. These problems, represented by the slow pace of activities coupled with bureaucratic violation of relevant laws by officials to favour their kind, the widespread use of "waste" and utilising public employment as a means of obtaining personal benefits.

He added that several proposals had been submitted through the legal administrative procedures. But, instead of implementing these proposals, a trend had begun to emerge recently which aims at privatising the

public sector under the justification that the government aims at improving these services and to get rid of excessive administrative staff. Obviously, he said, that the productivity of the public sector is very slow and the government is intending to redress this issue through privatisation process - particularly in the administrative field.

The lecturer opined that although the weakness of the public sector productivity constitutes justification for determining remedial courses of action, the relevant suggestions presented should not exclusively focus on the denationalisation process.

Workforce
He added that for the time being, in the absence of qualitative national workforce, the private sector, following the denationalisation process will be reluctant to enhance the number of the expatriate workforce which currently stands at 72.7 per cent of the country's total workforce. The figures cited are according to 1989 statistics the lecturer said and increasing the number of expatriate workforce will eventually negatively affect the population balance which the country is trying so hard to achieve.

He said that about 92.7 per cent of Kuwaitis are working in the public sector.

Manna said that the private sector which is always keen on making large profits, would also provide services of an economic nature. But, it must be borne in mind that high prices will have to be paid for such services. He underscored the fact that the private sector will strive to make huge profits even at the expense of community values, an through the introduction of legislations.

Additionally, in the strictness of the word, the private sector cannot be considered to be productive, as it depends mainly on promoting foreign goods and eventually any expansion will enhance its dependence on foreign suppliers.

Private offices
The Kuwaiti government has decided to allow university professors to open private consultancy and professional offices while working at the university. The university teachers were banned from operating such offices while working with the university. The new decision included permission to open legal, engineering and commercial offices. The council however has specified a number of conditions that professors must fulfil before getting university approval.

Hash Flash win fun run

LAST weekend saw the 3rd annual Kuwaiti (KMMC) Nomads Fun Run held outside the grounds of the New English School in Jabriya. Considering the extremely hot conditions, it was amazing to see nearly 200 hundred runners of all shapes, size and age preparing to run. Each team consisted of ten runners who each had to complete 3 kilometres thus making the event a 30 km team race.

The eventual team winners were the Hash Flash mens team in a time of just under two hours. Second placed were the British Liaison Team with the New

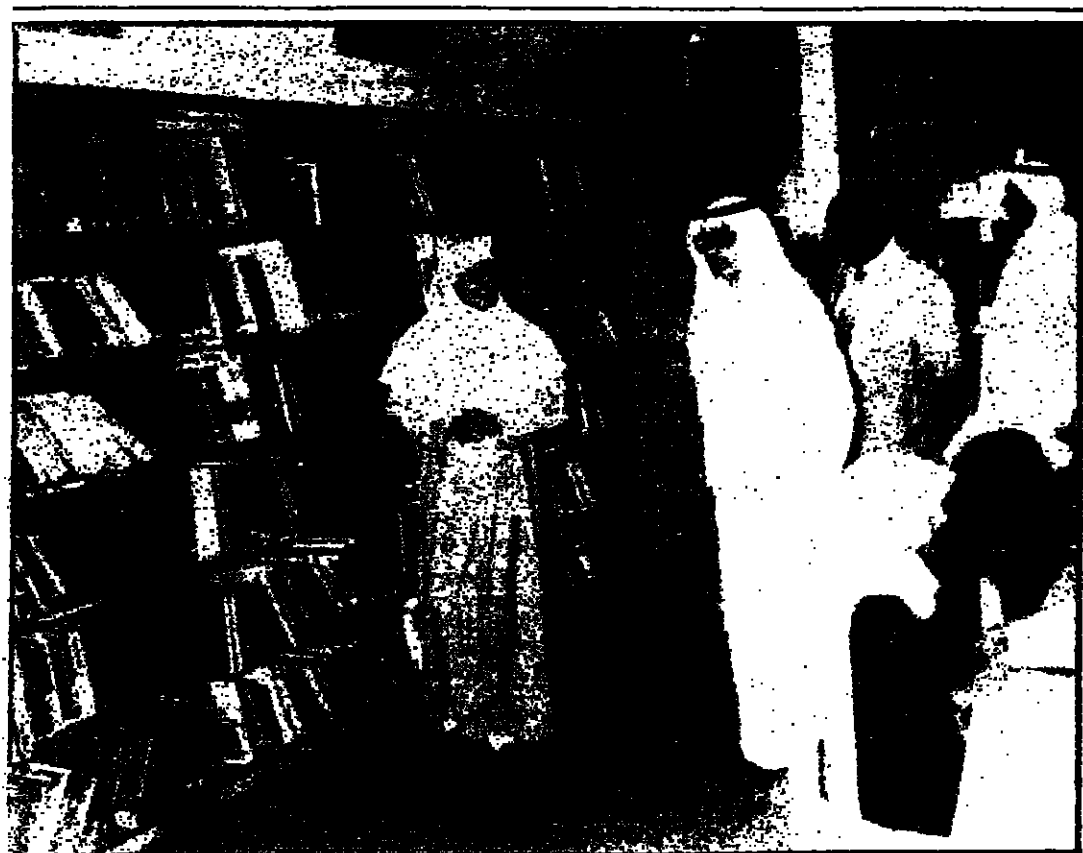
English School third. Out of the three ladies teams running, the Hash were again first, followed by the K.E.S. and a Netball team.

The individual medals were hotly contested and the winning times showed just what running talent exists in Kuwait. The fastest man was Glen Fitzpatrick of the GES in 9 mins 26 secs the fastest lady turned out to be probably Kuwait's best all round sportswoman, Mary Dredge in a time of 12 mins 44 secs.

The oldest competitor medal was won by Mike Hunter who looked very fit at 53 years young. The youngest team was the one

from the Kuwait mini-rugby club with medals awarded to Edward D'Renzy Martin and Owain Adams.

The presentations were made by Kuwait (KMMC) Nomads Chairman Graham Adams who thanked Shell, for their sponsorship of the run, the second time in two weeks they have sponsored a rugby club event. He also thanked Richard Doncom and Nick Harvey for all their hard work in organising the event. He also promised that next years event would be held a little earlier as the weather was definitely more than suited to lying by the pool rather than running.



Inspection tour

Undersecretary of the Higher Education Ministry, Musaad Al Haroon yesterday made an inspection visit of the Commercial Studies and Health Sciences Colleges for girls of the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training. He was received by top officials at both colleges.

Gulf still unstable: Mazidi

KUWAIT, May 26, (Kuna). State Minister for Services Affairs Issa Al Mazidi was quoted here today as saying that the situation in the Arabian Gulf region will remain of concern to many countries and might negatively affect commercial activities.

"Due to the inability of Iraq and Iran to reach a full and clear peace, the situation in the Gulf will remain to be of concern to all of us and exposes navigation in the region to possibilities of decline and fluctuation," Mazidi told a local daily.

"Stability and flourishing could not be attained without a clear accord between the two countries, ensuring safety of the region, the minister stressed.

Iraq and Iran, who stopped the fighting between them in August 1988, have not been able yet to reach a conclusive peace treaty normalising their relations. However, the two, through the United Nations, have been attempting to negotiate a settlement since

the ceasefire.

The Kuwaiti government plays an important role in maintaining the security of the region and convincing the two adversaries to reach a comprehensive peace, Mazidi said.

Kuwait, he added, "believes that the circumstances for reaching an agreement are more than the circumstances calling for disputes, and the questions under discussion and negotiations could find a compromise formula accepted by both sides."

Police face pressure in city

KUWAIT CITY is considered one of the most crowded residential and commercial areas and this is precisely the reason police officers face more pressure to preserve safety and comfort for all. Patrols at the capitals have taken this responsibility along with other duties represented by carrying out most police stations work.

A local daily interviewed the commander of capital patrols, Lt Col Ahmad Rajab who stressed that capital patrol force face huge responsibilities and carry the load of most police stations.

On the other hand, Major Gholoom Habeeb said that more patrols were assigned at commercial banks and establishments located in the capital to preserve security and order. He pointed out that police officers have no authority to force any vehicle to stop in order to inquire about identifications.

Commander of capital patrols started the conversation by saying that securitymen are now facing more responsibilities after the vast expansion of population and commercial movement in the area. In addition to preserving security and order patrols work round the clock and take in guarding official

caravans and national celebration and also preserving smoother traffic flow.

He stated that capital patrols took over most police stations duties and assist resolving many problems. He added that patrols duties cover capital areas including Sharq, Murgab, Dasman, Salhiya Madena, Shuwaikh, Shamiya, Adailiya, Khaldiya Rawdha, Dhahiya, Mansooriya, Benid El Qar Fayha, Nuzha, Qadisiya, Keifan, Daiya, Sulabikhat, Doha, the hospital area, the vegetables and fruits market, and military academies.

Major Gholoom Habeeb meanwhile stated that patrols duties include rescue, traffic and police stations activities. He pointed out that 18 patrols are assigned during each shift in different areas. He stressed that capital patrols have succeeded resolving many daily problems.

He further stressed that strong legal measures are taken against police officers who mistreat girls and females in the street. He added that it is not true that patrol personnel misbehave with women drivers. He stressed that the law is implemented on both women and men equally.

NHA preparing fourth plan housing schemes

THE assistant director general of the National Housing Authority for design, planning and executive affairs Ali Al Fouzan has said that the authority is preparing schemes of the 4th Five Year Plan 90/1995. Headed that plan will be based on achieving equality among citizens on basis of cost of the land allotment and

not its area. He added that the plan will include housing projects in Umm Al Himan, Jahra, Qurain and other places with an area of 400 square metres for each house at these places. The plan also includes housing projects in Sulabikhat and west of Fintas with an area of 250 square metres for each house. The authority is still studying

housing projects in the new areas of Wafra and Khiran. It will determine the area of houses in the two areas according to policies put by state to develop such areas, he said.

Questionnaires

Fouzan pointed out that the authority is studying and follow-

ing up its designs and designs of houses through distribution of questionnaires among citizens before and after receiving their houses. The results of these questionnaires can help the authority develop its design. The trends of the new Five Year Plan will have the best use of lands by reducing the area of the land allotment but maintaining all elements of the

programme of government house. The authority does its best to follow up works and achievements of contractors at the housing projects. It carries out its duties and responsibilities when it sees that they delay the work. Sometimes we withdraw the project from contractors who delay work and hand it to other contractors, he said.

Wakeham lauds UK-Kuwait relations

Hope for better ties with Arabs

LONDON, May 26, (Kuna): Britain's Energy Secretary John Wakeham has paid tribute to Anglo-Kuwaiti relations, while stressing that his recent visit to that Arab country was successful.

In an exclusive interview with Kuna here today, Wakeham however, indicated that "tangible results usually take longer time to emerge."

The minister stressed that his recent trip to Kuwait and Qatar improved "the already good relations" with these two Arab Gulf countries.

Wakeham pointed out that he extended during his trip to Kuwait a formal invitation to Kuwait's Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah to visit the UK.

He described Sheikh Ali as a "distinguished oil minister."

The visit will take place "at a time which would be convenient to him," Wakeham added.

The British Energy Secretary revealed that he intends to visit Saudi Arabia later this year, but no date has yet been fixed. Wakeham noted that there is "a great deal of goodwill" between Britain and the Arab world, and affirmed that the UK wishes to develop bilateral relations with the region.

Turning to the current problems between Britain and Iraq, the minister said that he explained to his hosts in Kuwait and Qatar that Britain was not launching a campaign against Baghdad.

He expressed the hope that the current difficulties could be overcome, and he was also hopeful that the forthcoming Arab summit in Baghdad would not adopt "an anti-Western or British view."

Referring again to his recent visit to the region, Wakeham said that Britain was interested in business opportunities for British companies in Kuwait and Qatar.

In response to a question, the minister told Kuna that Britain, which is not a member of Opec, has "good friendly relations with many member countries of the organisation, including the Arab Gulf states."

However, Wakeham repeated that the British government adopts a free market policy as far as oil production is concerned and does not foresee direct co-operation in that respect with the 13-nation group.

Meanwhile, Wakeham shared the view of Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa that "what is needed in the oil market is stability, as we do not want to see fluctuations of supply and demand affecting production."

During his stay in Kuwait, Wakeham was also received by the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah, to whom he conveyed "greetings from British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher."

The minister also said that he told the crown prince that Thatcher hopes that his postponed visit to Britain "would take place before the end of this year."

Responding to another question, the energy secretary said that forecasts suggest that Britain's oil production will continue until the end of this century, while gas will remain longer than that.

"The projection is that production will continue at least for the next 15-20 years at the present rate," which is around two million barrels per day.

Wakeham recalled that Britain is the seventh largest oil producer in the world. On nuclear stations in the UK, the minister said that the British government is freezing the building of any new stations until 1994.

Following that year there would be a review, in order to decide the future moves, he concluded.

No leniency shown to drug smugglers: Farhan

Hashish tops list

THE devastating effects of narcotics has been viewed with considerable concern by Kuwaiti authorities and in a determined bid to address this "cancer," a national committee was formed which is headed by the minister of the interior.

Speaking on the deadly consequences of drugs and related narcotics, the director of the anti-narcotics Department at the Interior Ministry Col Abdullah Al Farhan said a new law on narcotics was issued about six years ago which consists of 55 articles.

This law stipulated various levels of punishment for both smugglers and addicts and could include life imprisonment in some instances. The law also provides for issuing capital punishment in case of resistance to security forces resulting in the death of any official.

Security

The official said that viewing the number of cases, he advocated no leniency of the law for drug smugglers and traders. He cited the following seizures effected by security forces: five

kilos of heroin; 20 kilos of hashish, half a kilo of opium; 19 grammes of marijuana; 300,000 Ciptagon pills and about 10,000 assorted narcotic pills. These quantities were seized during last year. During the same period, security forces at the airport apprehended 49 kilos of hashish, seven kilos of heroin, 87 grammes of opium, 2 kilos of marijuana; 12 morphine injections; 375,000 Ciptagon pills and 5,000 valium pills.

The official said that there is close co-operation with all departments of the security forces, including the Ministry of Public Health to ensure that the usage of drugs is kept to the minimum possible.

List

On the most common forms of drugs, Farhan said that hashish heads the list, followed by heroin and then opium. Commenting on qat (a plant grown usually in Yemen), he said that this plant is considered to be a narcotic species and is prohibited just like other narcotics.

On planting narcotics in Kuwait, Farhan said that

though, there have been some isolated cases, security forces keep a close watch on all areas where this plant could be cultivated and do conduct surprise checks.

Commenting on the use of Patex and Benzine as narcotics by some youths, he said that these materials are considered to be dangerous, but as there is no law prohibiting their imports, it becomes difficult, if not impossible to institute legal proceedings. He disclosed that 65 per cent of addicts who use these substances are between 19 to 30 years of age. However, he said that if families, or peers report individuals, security personnel do intervene to ensure that the culprit desists in pursuing this bad habit.

He went on to state that Kuwait is in close proximity to the Golden Triangle countries of Asia which are considered to be the sources of major drug supplies. Expatriates coming to work from these countries have been known to try and smuggle various forms of narcotics, but, invariably have been apprehended by security forces, Farhan said.

24 kidney transplants performed in 1 month

KUWAIT, May 26, (Kuna): Kuwait's Hamid Al Isa Centre for Organ Transplant has performed a record 24 kidney transplant operations in one month and Professor George Abuna, the centre's chief, appealed to the people not to hesitate in donating organs to those who need them.

In an interview with Kuna, Prof. Abuna underscored that out of the 24 successful operations, 17 of the donated kidneys were from cadavers which he regards as an important development.

He said another major factor was that the centre was able for the first time to receive kidneys from four donors in four weeks time.

Prof. Abuna indicated that one Kuwaiti father who requested anonymity, donated the kidneys of his 17-year-old son who died as a result of a car accident, to those who needed them just for God's sake.

Dr Abuna regretted that they were not able to make use of the donor's liver and pancreas due to the fact that he had been linked to life-support system for ten days, a matter which led to the deterioration of the efficacy of those organs. He cited other difficulties such as lengthy medical and legal procedures, which did not make it possible to extract the liver and the pancreas at the right time.

Procurement
To remove difficulties hindering organ transplant operations in Kuwait, Prof. Abuna suggested the establishment of Western-style organ procurement body to alleviate the burden on the surgical teams.

He indicated that the proposed bodies would be entrusted with co-ordination of legal, medical and social aspects related to organ transplants instead of wasting surgeons' time in other hospitals trying on that job.

He emphasised that without the establishment of such a vital assisting body "no tangible progress could be achieved in the field of organ transplant."

The performance of 25 operations in a span of four weeks is really a fantastic job, he said, but warned that rate could not be maintained without the establishment of an integrated apparatus to undertake legal, social and medical affairs.

Prof. Abuna said the centre had recently submitted a project on establishment of an organ procurement apparatus to the Ministry of Health, hoping that it would gain the support of Health Minister Abdel Razzaq Yousif Al Abdel Razzaq who expressed sympathy with the project.

Costs
The chief of Hamid Al Isa Organ Transplant Centre said the annual cost of the project was estimated at KD180,000 (about \$600,000), mainly for paying the salaries of technicians, social workers and for the purchase of some equipment.

He noted that the humble cost of the project, which helps only three Kuwaitis to undergo heart or pancreas transplants in the United States, would enable the centre to perform between 60 to 70 similar operations in Kuwait.

He said a study conducted before submitting the project had shown that if the centre manages to receive 24 cadavers a year or two cadavers every two weeks, it will save the country over KD1.5 million spent in organs transplant abroad.

Estimating the number of those who die in traffic accidents in Kuwait at 350 persons a year, Prof. Abuna said the target of 24 cadavers a year is still far below the required 20 per cent of the cadavers.

Bearing in mind that the loss of loved ones is a tragic event, yet relatives of the deceased can restore the smile to those who still live miserably due to failure of one or more organs of their bodies.



Sikaran-Karate practitioners poised after their rigid training: Sitting (L-R) Jerry Bagasala, brown belt, Joseil Miranda, black belt. Standing (L-R) Manny Inserto, outgoing Kapilku president, 4th dan black belt (PKA & RBP) Brendo Rivera, brown belt, Bayani Trinidad, 5th dan black belt (Tikau) Crispin Officer, 1st dan black belt, Abraham Delizo & Robin M Adiong, 4th dan black belt (Kathephil & JKA).

Kapilku to hold pre-independence day gala

THE Association of Filipinos in Kuwait (Kapilku) is organising a pre-independence day celebration on June 8 at Messilah Beach Resort. The competition is organised by the Philippine Embassy under the patronage of His Excellency Ambassador Mauryang Mohammad Tamano.

The Barong Tagalog competition is open to all Filipinos and is classified into two categories, that is, men and ladies. The top three models in each category will receive valuable prizes and trophies. Deadline for submission of entries will be June 5. For more details, please contact Ms Sarah A. Macarimbang, outgoing Kapilku vice-president for Social & Cultural Affairs on telephone numbers 4839009, 4839889 and 4843447.

The success of last year's Kapilku's Palarong Pilipino which included the Sikaran-Karate as a new sports in the mini-olympics will be demonstrated by expert in this martial art. Sikaran is a Filipino art of foot fighting which is similar to karate and taek-

wondo. The demonstration will include Kata exhibition, self-defence and street fighting techniques and free style sparring.

A Kata tournament will be included in the day's celebration to add flavour to the exhibition. The Kata competition is open to all Green, Brown and Black belt holders. The top three in each division will receive valuable prizes plus trophies and medals. Entrance is free. All interested participants who wish to join can contact Jun Arenas, finance officer of the Philippine Embassy on telephone number 5329315 or Robin M. Adiong, technical advisor of the Philippine Embassy on telephone number 5329316 or Manny Inserto. Deadline for submission of entries will be June 5.

Arnis, the Filipino art of stick defence which is similar to Kendo will be an added attraction during the celebration.

For more details regarding the forthcoming Philippine Pre-independence day on June 8 at Messilah Beach, please contact Philippine Embassy or any of the officers of the seven Filipino associations.

Direct dialling to India suspended

KUWAIT'S Ministry of Communications has been notified by the Satellite Earth Station in Bombay that a fault has occurred in the Indian Satellite Earth Station at Bombay and that presently there is no direct dialling to India through this satellite station. Calls are being handled from Kuwait to India by International Exchange.

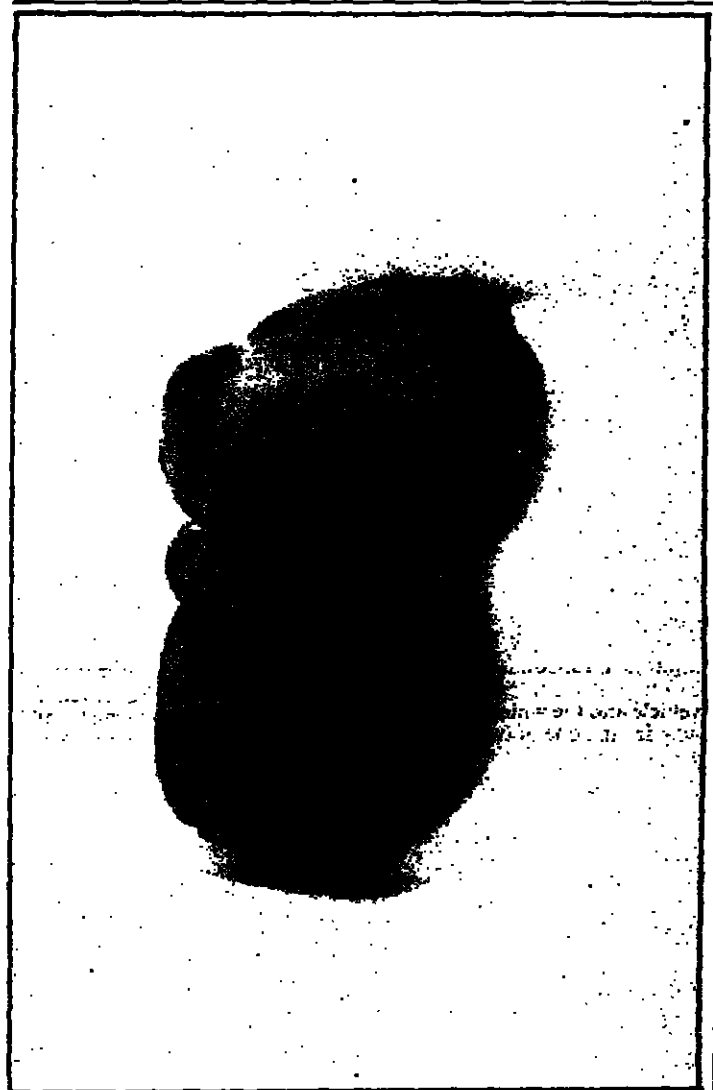
It is expected that the fault at the Indian station will be rectified by the end of this week and any inconvenience is highly regretted.

Smugglers arrested

SECURITYMEN at Jahra Governorate arrested four persons on a charge of attempting to enter the country illegally and for carrying large quantities of liquor from Iraq. Policemen at Marlaa checkpoint noticed a saloon car driving off into the desert before reaching the point. They chased the car and shot in the air to oblige the smugglers to stop.

Arrested

The driver stopped his car and three persons with him were arrested. Two of them were Iraqi nationals and the driver and another were without nationality. The securitymen found 14 cartons of whisky beside 97 different bottles of liquor. The number plate of the car belonged to a pickup stolen last week belonging to a Kuwaiti national. The defendants were referred to investigation authorities.



Freak of nature

A freak potato resembling a puppy was bought by a Kuwaiti housewife Umm Mohammed at the Kuwait wholesale market on Thursday.

Cameras to monitor KU libraries

DEAN of the Science College at Kuwait University, Dr Adnan Al Aqeel said that all activities at the library premises and halls will be closely monitored through the introduction of state-of-the-art television cameras.

The official indicated that the college administration is compelled to take such measures after all other alternatives failed to preserve order at the library. He added that some students disturb the peace and tranquillity of the library during the period other students are engaged in the pursuit of their studies at the library.

He pointed out that mounting these television cameras will resolve many problems, besides providing a quiet atmosphere for students. It will also contribute to preserving orderly handling of books and periodicals. The system which is to be operational within the few days will enable officials to supervise the entire library via television Aqeel said.

The librarian of the Science Library, Rima Yassen stated that installing the new system will provide officials easy access to pinpoint violators and to take immediate remedial measures.

In a related development, other university libraries such as Commerce, Economy and Political Sciences College have contracted to mount identical systems at the respective libraries.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Amir's audience

KUWAIT, May 26, (Kuna): HH the Amir today received in audience HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber.

His Highness also received the Indonesian ambassador to Kuwait to take leave on the occasion of ending his mission in the country.

Arab summit

KUWAIT, May 26, (Kuna): His Highness the Amir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah and the accompanying delegation leave the country Sunday morning for Baghdad to attend the extraordinary Arab summit Conference.

The emergency Arab summit, called for by the PLO to discuss the dangers facing the Arab nation, is to start in the Iraqi capital on Monday.

Rwandan minister

KUWAIT, May 26, (Kuna): HH the Crown Prince and Premier Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah and the accompanying delegation leave the country Sunday morning for Baghdad to attend the extraordinary Arab summit Conference.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Undersecretary Sulaiman Majid Shabih and Rwanda's non-resident ambassador to Kuwait.

Premier's council

KUWAIT, May 26, (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah today presided over a meeting at his diwan in Bayan Palace for the Higher Petroleum Council following its new formation May 14.

The council headed by Sheikh Saad groups deputy premier and foreign minister, ministers of finance, state for cabinet affairs, oil, planning and trade and industry.

The council also groups Dr Imad Mohammed Abdul Aziz Al Atiqi, Jasssem Mohammed Othman Al Moussa, Ahmed Abdullah Al Ahmed, Abdul Mohsen Faisal Al Thuwaini, Salem Abdul Latif Musallam and Dr Sulaiman Mohammed Abdullah Shamseddin.

Sheikh Zayed

ABU DHABI, May 26, (Kuna): The United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan will head for Baghdad tomorrow to take part in the extraordinary Arab summit due to open Monday, it was announced here today.

The summit which comes at the request of the PLO, will discuss the direct and indirect threats against Arab national security.

Omani message

KUWAIT, May 26, (Kuna): Minister of Trade and Industry Faisal Abdul Razaq Al Khalid today received a message from his Omani counterpart Salem Bin Abdullah on trade and industrial relations between the two countries.

The message dealt with co-operation and co-ordination in the commercial field between Kuwait and Oman. The latter chairs the current session of the GCC trade and industry ministers council.

It was handed by Omani Ambassador to Kuwait Hilal Bin Salem Al Siyabi to the ministry's Undersecretary Abdullah Hamad Al Hamad.

Nursing profession

Kuwaiti women still abstain

A LOCAL daily has carried out a series of interviews with different members of the nursing staff operating at Kuwait's hospitals to shed light on the most socially frowned upon profession and get facts from the horses' mouths about the common problems afflicting the lives of the "angels of mercy."

The quest attempted, among other things, to establish why nursing is the most understaffed profession in Kuwait, and why families still find the work of a nurse a breach of the social code, and even though women have been emancipated the late hours of work and the fact that they have to mix with male nurses and doctors keep women away from the profession.

The head nurse at the Ibn Sina Hospital and member of the Nursing Society said that the nurse carried the whole bulk of the nursing duties and is professionally responsible for the patient's performance.

This is because the patient needs the nurse more often than he needs the doctor, as she actually is responsible for following up on his psychological situation and sees to it that he takes his medicine on time and waits on him as he calls.

She sees nursing duties as complementary to the doctor's mission and that she helps the patient get better by following up the doctor's instructions and contributes to the timely recuperation of the patient.

The head nurse said that the work of the nurse still comes under social fire and so many questions are raised about the shift-duty system and late hours that the nurse has put up with as she does her duties.

She said that society frowns on the nurse's work and is behind the decline of Kuwaiti women joining this vital sector, and what is worse is the fact that men abstain from marrying nurses.

She added that this resulted in some nurses refusing to work side-by-side with male nurses or doctors and requesting duties where they are not required to mix with men.

The head nurse of the school health department said that nurses defied the unfavourable social outlook as a mere slave or servant who stands at the "beck and call" of the patient, and this look is at times clearly expressed by negative attitudes and naive treatment of fathers checking out

on their children.

She blamed the unguided information media for the escalation of social reservations against the nursing profession, pointing out that movies have largely contributed to smearing this human profession.

She pointed out that this should account for the decline shown by Arab women in general and Kuwaiti women in particular to join the nursing field, which is populated with hired foreign labour.

The surgery operations in-charge at the Mubarak Al Kaber Hospital said that it is truly deplorable that there are those who still cannot appreciate the essence of the nursing profession and penetrate the false outward cast on the nurse's work by unguided movies and uncaring media, where the nurse is more often than not portrayed as a woman with a lot to repent.

She said that in order to do the right thing to get the society to change its outlook to this important field of paramedics, we must assign the media to undertake the role of "washing the black-painted picture of the nurse," which the media themselves have largely contributed to.

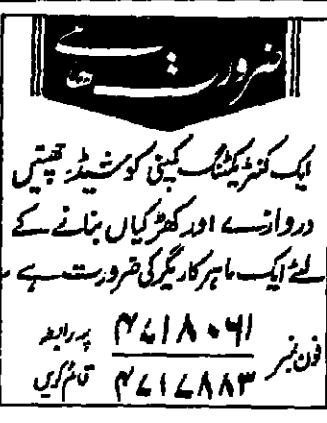
Oil slick off Oman

MUSCAT, May 26, (AP): An oil tanker was halted and its captain put under ship arrest today as police and pollution control officials investigated the cause of a 4-mile-long (6-kilometre) slick off Oman, shipping executives reported.

The half-mile-wide (800 metre) slick was spotted in the Gulf of Oman off the coast at Mina Al Fahal, 10 miles (17 kms) northwest of the capital, Muscat.

The vessel was identified as the Gibraltar-registered Huasco Vallya, said the shipping industry sources, who spoke on condition they were not named.

Officials did not identify the tanker captain or give his nationality. But the sources said police had confiscated the tanker's registration certificate.



Students resort to private tuitions again

NUMEROUS parents in Kuwait, determined to ensure that their children secure high grades in schools and colleges, resort to giving them private tuitions.

A local daily interviewed a number of teachers and students to focus on the disadvantages and advantages of private tuitions.

Several students interviewed said that some teachers are unable to transfer information to students during official class hours and consequently are compelled to resort to private tutors to augment their level of understanding subjects to obtain high grades.

However, another section of students commented that if a student pays attention diligently to the teachers explanation during class hours, there is no need for additional tutorials.

Nevertheless, most students who had opted to take private tuitions said that during these sessions, the tutor summarised the salient points of the subject which made it easier for them to secure higher grades which is essential for gaining admission to the university.

Meanwhile, teachers said that the phenomenon of private tuitions does not exist in Kuwait, but is prevalent in all Arab countries.

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Al Soor Street, Kuwait City
(across the Kuwait Sheraton Hotel)
Between 4:30 and 7:00 pm

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

THE time to stop a revolution is at the beginning, not the end — Adlai Stevenson, US statesman-politician (1900-1965).

Rift in party

Lisbon Reds won't reform

LOURES, Portugal, (AP): The winds of change have forced communist parties across Europe to bend toward reform, but the Portuguese Communist Party remains firmly on a Marxist-Leninist course with leader Alvaro Cunhal at the helm.

"Our party continues to declare itself a Marxist-Leninist party... few of our comrades have expressed the opinion that the PCP should follow the path that other communist parties have tread," Cunhal said Friday to cheers and clenched fist salutes from the more than 2,000 congress delegates.

The charismatic, white-haired Cunhal, a feisty 76, has dominated the PCP since taking over as general secretary in 1961.

His re-election to the office Sunday was unanimous, despite hints made earlier this year that he could retire at the Congress in Loures, a bastion of communist support, 20 kilometres (12 miles) outside Lisbon.

His decision to stay on could worry a growing number of party reformers demanding glasnost-style change.

But the congress also elected Carlos Carvalhos, a 48-year-old economist who heads the party's delegates in the European Parliament at Strasbourg, France, to the new post of assistant secretary-general.

The combination of hardline Cunhal's re-election with Carvalhos' nomination as a more pragmatic heir-apparent, might help heal the rift between reforming militants and the orthodox old guard.

An outspoken group of dissidents is calling for the PCP to modernise its electoral programme in keeping with the realignment of East and West and Portugal's development as a stable democracy within the 12-nation European Economic Community.

They also want the PCP to introduce greater democracy and openness in the party's own structures and procedures.

But up to now, the leadership has dealt firmly with the dissenters.

Leading woman's rights campaigner Zita Seabra was expelled from the party in January after she argued for Cunhal's resignation, a change in the party's name and the adoption of a new programme abandoning traditional ideology.

And trade union official Jose Judas, another leading critic, was barred from attending the Loures congress. Other critics have been dismissed from their Central Committee positions.

In his speech, Cunhal accused the reformists of "forming factions that act in a conspiratorial and organised way within the party, and carrying out a media campaign that places their action in a wider anti-communist campaign against the party."

"This will not be permitted," he warned.

Cunhal's critics say the party must reform to halt an electoral decline that has seen the PCP's national vote fall from 21 per cent in 1979 to 14 per cent in local elections last December.

The collapse of communist governments across Eastern Europe has brought some changes. Cunhal admits the mistake of his former comrades in the East who "committed serious errors and isolated themselves from their people."

Cunhal also gives verbal backing to the perestroika reforms of Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev, but he has kept an iron-fisted rule over the party apparatus, permitting no dissent.

In media reports earlier this year, for example, he said aggressive anti-socialist forces backed by Western imperialism in Eastern Europe could "compromise the building of socialism."

Unlike other communist parties in Europe, the PCP supported the Soviet intervention in Czechoslovakia in 1968 and in Afghanistan in 1980. It also was silent on the Chinese massacre near Tiananmen Square last year and sent a delegation to the Romanian Communist Party congress last year before Nicolae Ceausescu was overthrown.

Despite media reports of ill-health, Cunhal proved at the congress he had lost none of his fiery public-speaking style, addressing delegates in Loures' Hall of Peace and Friendship with two lengthy speeches that were frequently interrupted by applause and chants of "PCP PCP."

Cunhal was elected party leader after escaping from 12 years of imprisonment under a rightist dictatorship that ruled Portugal for 48 years before an army-led 1974 revolution paved the way for a return to democracy.

His more than 40 years of underground resistance to the dictatorship, that included long periods of imprisonment and torture at the hands of the infamous Pide secret police, earned Cunhal legendary status among his PCP followers and respect from his political opponents.

Judas said recently Cunhal will continue to run the party even after he retires.

"It's a bit like (veteran Chinese communist leader) Deng Xiaoping, even when he leaves the leadership it's him that commands."

But Judas insisted the party will have to accept further changes. "In the future, being a communist won't be the same thing as being a communist in 1917... if the communist parties don't change, adapt, then they'll disappear."

Judas refuted criticism that the party's reformers have their support limited to Lisbon intellectuals, while the PCP powerbases among the factory workers from the industrial belt around Lisbon and the farm labourers of the southern Alentejo province remain loyal to the old guard.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1719 — Holy Roman Emperor Charles VI founds Oriental Company in Vienna to compete with Dutch trade in the Orient.
- 1860 — Force under Italian patriot Giuseppe Garibaldi invades Sicily and captures city of Palermo.
- 1905 — Japanese annihilate Russian fleet of 32 ships in Tsushima Straits off Korea.
- 1918 — German forces launch intensive offensive on Western Front in World War I.
- 1927 — Japan intervenes in Shantung, blocking advance of Chinese Nationalists on Peking.
- 1936 — Britain's luxury liner Queen Mary begins maiden voyage across Atlantic Ocean.
- 1941 — German battleship Bismarck is sunk by British navy off France in World War II, with loss of 2,300 lives.
- 1956 — India claims suzerainty over Chitral, which has been under Pakistani rule since 1947.
- 1960 — Government of premier Adnan Menderes and president Celal Bayar is overthrown in Turkey, and Gen. Cemal Gursel assumes presidency.
- 1961 — Tunku Abdul Rahman, Malaya's premier, proposes great Malaysia federation.
- 1971 — Soviet Union signs 15-year pact with Egypt, pledging assistance in recovery of all Arab territories occupied by Israel.
- 1972 — US President Richard Nixon flies to Leningrad and visits graves of victims of Nazi siege in World War II.
- 1984 — Hundreds of parliamentarians from Austria, Britain, France, Norway, United States and West Germany at Paris conference join growing criticism of Soviet Union for human rights violations.
- 1985 — Typhoon in Bangladesh takes at least 3,000 lives, according to the Red Cross. News reports put the death toll at 20,000.
- 1988 — Syrian troops move into Beirut's southern slums, halting three weeks of savage street battles between rival Shiite Muslim factions.
- 1989 — US President George Bush meets with Italian leaders in Rome as White House says US will not withdraw American troops from Europe without consulting first with Western allies.

Burma goes to the polls

First multi-party election in 30 years

RANGOON, Burma, (AP): Burma is holding its first multi-party elections in 30 years today, but two of the military government's main opponents are under house arrest and a third is in prison.

Diplomats stationed in Rangoon have described the election as a cynical exercise by heavy-handed military rulers, but some analysts believe it will create a form of party politics that may evolve slowly toward democracy.

The military junta, which brutally suppressed a pro-democracy uprising in 1988, has allowed scores of parties to form since and promises the election will be free and fair.

Parliament

More than 2,300 candidates — independents and representatives of 93 parties — are running for the 485 parliament seats. Election officials say 18,900 voting stations will be provided and ballots will be counted in the presence of candidates' representatives.

Critics point out that, however scrupulous the attention to election rules, most of Burma is under martial law, many opposition politicians have been arrested and outsiders are not welcome.

Burma has not approved applications for foreign correspondents to report on the election and, on May 15, even stopped issuing visas to tourists.

"There is no freedom of speech, there is no freedom of assembly," said one diplomat in the Burmese capital. "Under those particular restrictions, it is already not a free and fair election. It is farcical that those the people want to vote for are not in the elections."

Aung San Suu Kyi, the most popular opposition leader, was placed under house arrest in July 1989 for violations of security laws. The other main leader of her National League for Democracy, Tin Oo, is serving a three-year prison term.

Former prime minister U Nu, Burma's last democratically elected leader, was put under house arrest in December. U Nu, now 84, was ousted in a 1962 coup led by Gen Ne Win.

Despite arrests of its leaders and some internal rifts, the National League for Democracy is clearly the most popular party in the election. It is one of six to enter candidates for more than 100 of the Parliament seats.

The party's popularity is due in large measure to Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of Burmese independence hero Aung San. She emerged as a brave, charismatic leader during the democracy movement of 1988.

The League and other parties have held some rallies, but their focus is on party organisation and door-to-door efforts rather than public display.

Security is tight in Rangoon, but Western diplomats do not foresee a replay of the 1988 uprising, when soldiers shot down several thousands demonstrators in the capital.

Burma's numerous rebel groups, including students who fled the repression, are known to have plans to disrupt voting in more remote areas.

The National League for Democracy's main opponent is the National Unity Party, the richest and best organised political group. It is the successor of the Burma Socialist Programme Party, the military-backed organisation that controlled the country for 26 years and led it to economic ruin.

Four other opposition parties are considered to have some popular backing, but Burmese political analysts say none will win a parliamentary majority unless the election is manipulated. That means a coalition.

Leading opponent under detention

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP): Election day in Burma will be the 312th day of house arrest for a former housewife and academic who most analysts believe could lead her party to victory if she were free to do so.

Until two years ago, Aung San Suu Kyi was virtually unknown. Today, she is the country's most popular political figure.

When the generals put her under house arrest July 20, 1989, they hoped to silence their most vocal critic. It didn't work.

"She has now become more or less a martyr figure," said a Burmese expatriate in Bangkok. "She embodies everything the Burmese people aspire to."

Suu Kyi, 44, is graceful and articulate. She emerged as the star of Burma's hazardous political stage less than two years ago, at the height of a national uprising for democracy that was brutally crushed.

Her father, Aung San, is revered in Burma as the leader of the movement for independence from



Gen Ne Win



Suu Kyi

Facts and figures

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP): Here are some facts and figures about Burma:

The land — Burma is about the size of France, bounded on land by India, China, Thailand and Laos. Rangoon, population 3.5 million, is the capital and largest city. Mandalay, in the heart of the country, is the second-largest city and the centre of traditional culture.

The people — Most of the 41 million people are Burmese. Important minorities include Chinese, Indians, Karen, Shan, Chin and Kachin. About 85 per cent of the population practices Buddhism.

The ruling military council led by Gen Saw Maung, has said it will not relinquish power until a government is formed and a new constitution written, which is expected to take some time.

"It's all set up; the government is going to pull all the strings," Josef Silverstein, a leading US scholar on Burma, said in an interview from the United States.

"I think they could tell you what the vote is going to be like. They're now trying to figure out how to divide the votes among the parties."

Other foreign analysts stress pre-election man-

oeuvring and intimidation by the generals rather than possible rigging of the vote.

Amnesty International, the human rights group based in London, accused Burmese authorities of rounding up hundreds of people, possible thousands, and said torture was widespread.

Many diplomats believe one motive for relocating about 500,000 people from cities into the countryside was to have better control of the election.

"There is no rule of law," one said. "The big question is if the Burmese will really dare vote for the opposition parties."

democracy, a military coup in 1962 brought Gen. Ne Win to power. He stepped down in 1988 during a pro-democracy uprising that was brutally crushed by the army. A military council led by Gen. Saw Maung now is in charge.

Burma has been called "Asia's hermit" for its isolationist policy of recent decades. The current military rulers have allowed far more foreign private investment than Ne Win's government did, but still seek to restrict outside influences. Foreign journalists have been virtually banned.

After a chaotic post-independence experiment with

oeuvring and intimidation by the generals rather than possible rigging of the vote.

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"There is no rule of law," one said. "The big question is if the Burmese will really dare vote for the opposition parties."

Perestroika exposes weak points

Economy threatens Gorbachev

MOSCOW, (Reuters): Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev imposed the biggest social and political changes ever seen in the Soviet Union, only to be threatened with their collapse because of economic crisis and demands for independence by the Baltic republics.

As he headed for a summit in Washington with US President George Bush at which major disarmament accords are to be signed, the world which applauded his foreign policies wondered whether he could survive his troubles at home.

As head of state and Communist Party chief, Gorbachev has altered the superpower relationship, boosted disarmament, pulled Soviet troops out of Afghanistan and allowed a peaceful revolution in Eastern Europe, paving the way for German unity.

Reforms

He introduced striking political reforms, abolishing the Communist Party's monopoly on power, opening the way to a multi-party system, and changing the constitution to give real power to the Soviet Parliament in Moscow and the 15 republics.

After five years as Communist Party chief, a post he assumed on March 11, 1985, Gorbachev added to his powers by becoming executive president of his country on March 15, 1990.

But his new authority did not solve growing domestic difficulties, many of which had been simmering for many years but were exposed by his liberal policies of glasnost (openness) and perestroika (restructuring).

The Baltic republic of Lithuania declared its independence and Latvia and Estonia announced they also wanted to leave the Soviet Union, creating



Gorbachev...troubles at home

a moral and constitutional crisis for Gorbachev and friction in his relations with the West.

And after five years of tinkering with economic reforms, Gorbachev was forced to move towards a

free market — the antithesis of communism — as the Soviet economy reached breaking point and workers began striking because of shortages.

He faced ever-growing pressure from conservatives dismayed at the political and economic chaos and from a military angry over the effective evaporation of the Warsaw Pact and the threat of a United Germany in Nato.

In the West, the man who once appeared to be a political Houdini began to look embattled.

"He is behind events. The train left the station and he is running to catch it," said Professor Alexander Dallin of Stanford University, a leading authority on Soviet foreign policy who recently visited Moscow.

"He has unleashed forces he cannot control." Asked in June 1989 by a West German reporter in Bonn how he would cope, Gorbachev replied: "I do not belong to those who panic." Other Soviet politicians are less certain.

"He (Gorbachev) has six months to a year," rebel communist Boris Yeltsin predicted during a 1989 visit to the United States. If there was no radical improvement, "there will be a revolution from below."

Cunning

Since becoming party chief in March 1985, Gorbachev has repeatedly shown political cunning, bouncing back with renewed strength each time opponents of perestroika rose against him.

With his election to the presidency in May 1989, the peasant's son from the northern Caucasus gained a solid legal basis and indirect popular mandate for his powers.

Switzerland

UN agency is penniless

GENEVA, (Reuters): The Nobel prize-winning UN agency catering for 15 million refugees around the world is broke.

The office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (Unhcr), which depends on voluntary contributions from governments, says its financial situation is so desperate that it could "result in unacceptable suffering and could even take its toll in terms of human lives."

The Unhcr needs \$80 million to make ends meet this year and examples a bound of the day-to-day problems it faces while trying to provide food and shelter to refugees in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Afford

Staff say the agency cannot afford to buy food or blankets for 800,000 Mozambicans who have fled civil strife into neighbouring Malawi.

"In Ethiopia, where a near famine is looming, we are unable to set up buffer stocks of foods while in some refugee camps in Sudan and Malawi, malnutrition has already gone up by 30 per cent," said Unhcr spokesman Raymond Hall.

"The long-term prospects are frightening," he added.

On the Indonesian island of Galang, a camp currently housing 12,000 Vietnamese boat people was built for 2,000.

"This means that the extra 10,000 have to sleep on the beach and we can't even buy plastic sheeting for them," said Sergio Vieira de Mello, head of the agency's Asia and Oceania division.

"More refugees, less resources," was how high commissioner Thorvald Stoltenberg of Norway summed up the situation he found on taking over from Jean-Pierre Hocke in January.

Hocke resigned in November. He had been blamed for rising costs and low staff morale.

The 52-year-old Swiss national ran the Unhcr for nearly five years and during his tenure the agency went beyond mere emergency assistance, branching out into education, self-help and social services programmes which have sent costs soaring.

Caters

But Unhcr officials also point out that the agency, which was set up in 1951 to deal with one million displaced people in Europe, now caters for 15 million on five continents.

The number of staff has risen to 2,400 from 60 in the mid-1950s when the Unhcr won its first Nobel peace prize for taking care of post-war refugees.

It won the Nobel prize again in 1981 after coping successfully with a rebelling of the world refugee population in a decade, the result of an exodus of Vietnamese after the communist takeover, the war in Afghanistan and civil strife in the Horn of Africa.

Vieira de Mello feels the UN body should return to its original mandate and hand over some of its activities to other specialised agencies and non-governmental organisations.

"There is a great need for rationalisation, for going back to basics," he said.

This is precisely what the Unhcr's 43-nation executive committee, which groups major donors such as the United States, the European Economic Community and Japan, recommended at a meeting last October.

Scope

"Donor countries want the Unhcr to limit the scope of its operations to the survival of refugees — food, water and housing — and leave education and self-help programmes to other specialised bodies," said Hall.

A follow-up meeting is scheduled for May 28, in Geneva. Delegates are expected to review the agency's financial situation and approve a 13 per cent cut in staff at the Geneva headquarters and a seven per cent reduction of field operations.

But escalating costs alone do not explain the Unhcr's dramatic financial difficulties.

Governments and public opinion are increasingly wary of an ever-swelling and seemingly endless refugee tide and are turning their attention to other issues.

"Compassion fatigue has set in and there is a limit to what donor countries are willing or able to do," said Vieira de Mello.

Hall pointed out that the number of refugees worldwide doubled over the last decade while the agency's resources increased by only 25 per cent. "Contributions have simply not kept pace with our requirements," he added.

Relief officials say humanitarian causes face increasing competition from issues such as the need to rebuild Eastern Europe after the collapse of communist rule, pressing environmental problems and the war against drugs.

QUOTE ME

"He is probably the most widely quoted and widely talked to athlete among the media in sports today. He has a right to a human being to have a night when he needs to be by himself. I think our team was insulted by Tuesday night's effort, and now we have to use it as a weapon." — Bulls general manager Jerry Krause speaking on Jordan's behalf after his anger upon losing to Pistons.

"We're nearing industrial catastrophe. Within 11 days there'll be no general supplies of meat, no bread, no milk. We will have to set up emergency centres for people to eat." — A spokesman for Lithuanian government's Anti-Blockade Commission.

"This was something new...I see a slow, very cautious narrowing of our differences. He said he would continue to insist on freezing the document (independence declaration). We said we would think about it. If we accept a freeze we should have to have guarantees that this freezing would not turn into a permanent one." — A Lithuanian parliamentarian on Gorbachev telling him they could achieve sovereignty if they (Lithuania), freeze its independence declaration.

"There is very strong support for this agreement among the military leadership of the United States... support for it as a good agreement that is very States. And it would appear to me at least that most of the criticism is coming from those who in the past, from time to time, have simply rejected the concept of arms control generally." — Baker answering critics on his giving too much ground in Moscow.

مكة المكرمة

Kashmiris seek new policy, not new man

SRINAGAR, India, May 26, (Reuters): The departure of Kashmir's hardline Governor Jagmohan and his replacement by a former spy chief means little unless it heralds a new policy to deal with a separatist revolt, Kashmiris said today.

Jagmohan, the architect of India's tough policy towards Kashmir, resigned yesterday five months after he was appointed.

He was replaced by Girish Saxena, 63, security adviser to Prime Minister Vishwanath Prasad Singh and his predecessor Rajiv Gandhi and former head of India's External Intelligence Agency.

In a resignation letter to President Ramaswamy Venkataraman, Jagmohan said he had become controversial and his presence in

Kashmir was an obstacle to bringing militants into the mainstream of Indian life, official sources said.

Jagmohan, installed as governor when the secessionist revolt erupted in mid-January, was widely reviled in Jammu and Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

But his departure came too late, said Abdul Rashid Kabuli, a moderate former Kashmiri Member of India's Parliament.

"The basic issues involved will not change," he said.

"It's gone beyond the issue of one man, even though that man was a terror and a murderer," he said, reflecting the passionate feelings in Srinagar, the state's summer capital.

Those feelings intensified when the Kashmir

Valley's senior Muslim cleric, Moulvi Mohammad Farooq, was assassinated on Monday by three unidentified gunmen.

As mourners took his body onto the curfew-bound streets in procession, they were fired on by paramilitary police. At least 50 people were killed, hospital doctors said.

No Muslim in Srinagar appeared to believe the government's claim that militants in the crowd fired first. All seemed to believe the assassination was at Jagmohan's orders.

The bloodshed appeared to broaden and deepen support for some 44 secessionist groups.

Some want to join Muslim Pakistan. Most want independence.

"There is total involvement in the struggle now. It is a total revolt of the masses," Kabuli

said. "We want to decide our fate. Where is the harm? Where is the crime in that? How can a country that describes itself as the world's biggest democracy deny us this?" he asked.

Reporters moving around the city were greeted with chants of "freedom" and "no compromise."

In an interview with Reuters on Thursday a day before he resigned, Jagmohan said he believed his policies would work.

"First terrorism must be eliminated," he said.

After that, he said, people who were now cowed by gunmen could say what they really felt and normal democratic policies could resume.

The first stage of that policy, however,

appears to have alienated that three million Muslims of the Kashmir Valley.

"Jagmohan had to go," said one senior non-Kashmiri state official. "His policies had succeeded in spreading support for the independence movement to every corner of the valley."

Jagmohan's policies included house-to-house searches for militants, their financiers and weapons.

Many whose houses were searched complained of abuse and theft by the largely Hindu paramilitary troops.

Some alleged that people sitting quietly in their homes were seized and shot in the road outside.

Relatives of cousins Meraj-ud-Din Lone, 20, and Ghulam Mohammad Shafiqi, 42, told

such a story to reporters yesterday.

The two men said they were taken outside along with a 20-year-old woman, Jalla Banoo, after troops were attacked by militants about one kilometre (less than a mile) away.

"Meraj asked for water and they stuffed his mouth with dirt. Then they shot all three," said his brother Mushtaq Ahmed.

Jagmohan, in his interview with Reuters, said all such stories were militants' propaganda spread at gunpoint.

"It was stupid of him to say such things," said another senior non-Kashmiri state official.

"We all know there were excesses by the paramilitary elsewhere in India. How could there be none here?" he said.

No policy change: Kashmir governor

Saxena offers ray of hope

SRINAGAR, May 26, (Reuters): The new governor of India's Jammu and Kashmir state said today there would be no change in policy to combat a violent secessionist movement following the sudden removal of his hated predecessor.

Former national intelligence chief Girish Saxena told reporters India's fight against militant Muslim secessionists would be a tough one.

"It cannot be underestimated and we have no illusions, but what needs to be done will be done," Saxena said after taking the oath as

governor of India's only Muslim-majority state.

The ceremony was held before an audience mainly comprising civil servants and security force personnel at the governor's mansion in Srinagar, the state's summer capital. None of the Kashmir dignitaries who would normally attend was present.

Muslims blamed Saxena's predecessor, Governor Jagmohan, for the killing of Kashmir's chief Muslim cleric, Moulvi Mohammed Farooq, shot dead at his home on Monday.



Women protest

Muslim women shout anti-government slogans during a protest in Srinagar on Friday. More than 500 women protested against the killing of Moulvi Farooq, chief Muslim cleric of Kashmir, killed on May 21. More than 550

people have died since January in Kashmir where Muslim militants fighting for Kashmir's independence or merger with Pakistan. (Reuters wirephoto)

Charities deny

Misuse of US food donations

NEW DELHI, May 26, (AP): An independent audit of US aid to Roman Catholic charities in India alleges that bishops, priests and nuns could have misused food donations worth millions of dollars, officials said.

The charities denied any wrongdoing and called the audit exaggerated. The audit report did not accuse any clergy with theft and no individuals were identified.

The US embassy said yesterday the alleged abuses were being investigated by India's national law enforcement agency, the Central Bureau of Investigation, and by the investigative wing of the US Agency for International Development, or AID.

The audit, conducted by the US accounting firm Price Waterhouse, found that officials of India's Roman Catholic church — which receives about \$25 million worth of American food each year — drew up bogus lists of food recipients and used donations to conduct businesses.

Clergy also allegedly purposely exaggerated the amount of aid they distributed and filed false reports to hide the abuses, the auditors said.

The audit was ordered by the inspector general's office of AID and focused on Catholic relief services, a Baltimore-based charity which gives food to 4,600

Indian organisations. Most of the organisations are Roman Catholic, although Hindu, Muslim and non-religious groups participate. The organisations include the Missionaries of Charity run by Nobel peace prize winner Mother Teresa.

James Deharpporte, the head of Catholic Relief Services' operations in India, said the audit was "unfair and highly exaggerated the extent of our problems." He said the organisation was undergoing a management shake-up.

News of the audit came first in the Friday editions of the Washington Post. Details subsequently were provided by Price Waterhouse auditors and a US official in New Delhi.

Tridib Basu, a partner at Price Waterhouse in the Indian capital, said the audit does not accuse religious officials of theft, but the report said the relief programme "was operated in an atmosphere whereby the commodities could be misused with little risk of detection."

"Quantities of food stored in warehouses did not tally with written records of food delivered to and distributed from these warehouses," a US official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Proper quantities of food were not distributed to

beneficiaries and distribution of food was done irregularly or not at all at some sites."

The audit estimated that records for food distribution and actual food donations differed by about \$4 million. Other officials said they believed the report showed substantial evidence of widespread corruption and theft of the free US food.

The US official said record-keeping was shoddy, food storage was poor and Catholic Relief Services' role in monitoring the aid had generally been "deficient."

He said that due to the audit, Catholic Relief Services had cut back its operations in India. He said US AID also was reconsidering its aid to the organisation.

Deharpporte acknowledged some administrative problems but denied corruption problems. "It's unfair to say there has been widespread abuse," he said. "The best the audit can say is that it could have happened. Well, a lot of things could have happened."

He acknowledged that the charity had terminated its relationship with some organisations and was seeking repayment for lost or stolen food. In one case, 2,000 bags of food, worth \$20,000 disappeared from one warehouse.

At least 50 people were killed and 300 injured on Tuesday when security forces fired on Farooq's funeral procession in Srinagar. Jagmohan was summoned to Delhi and removed within a day yesterday.

Saxena offered one ray of hope to people who regard the Indian security forces as an occupation army. "I will review the machinery for considering grievances. If necessary, the machinery will be streamlined, improved and made effective," he said.

Many people in Srinagar complain they have no way of finding relatives retained in frequent house-to-house searches for militants and arms.

They also complain of abuse of women and theft. Allegations of torture and summary executions of suspect militants are widespread.

Jagmohan denied all such charges, but Saxena indicated he would take action to prevent abuses. "It is our intention that no innocent persons should be hurt or harassed," he said.

But he said there would be no easing of the fight against the militants, although his aim was to restore normal democratic politics.

"The first priority must be to restore normalcy to this beautiful valley," he said. "Those who indulge in murder and kidnapping will have to be dealt with firmly."

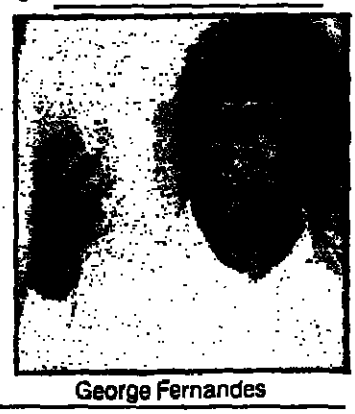
He said curfews, imposed frequently since the secessionist campaign erupted in violence in mid-January just after Jagmohan's appointment, would continue and might get tougher, even though they crippled economic life.

"If the situation requires curfews to be kept on or even made more severe, it will be done," Saxena said.

At least 550 people have been killed in clashes between protesters and troops this year. The bloodshed appeared to broaden support for a variety of secessionist groups, some of which want to join Muslim Pakistan. Most want independence.

Saxena said India would not let Kashmir secede and talks with the militants could only take place within the framework of the Indian constitution, a condition they have rejected.

"There is no change in policy, in the aims and objectives of the government," he said.



George Fernandes



Protest march

Leaders and activists of Bangladesh's right-wing Muslim League Party stage a protest march in Dhaka May 26 against what they called genocide by the Indian army in the Muslim-majority state of Kashmir. At least 325 people have been killed in clashes in Kashmir between the army and the militants demanding independence. (Reuters wirephoto)

Call for Kashmir solution

JEDDAH, May 26, (KUNA): The Organisation of the Islamic Conference yesterday called for a peaceful settlement to the problem of Kashmir and enabling the people of Kashmir to exercise their right to self-determination.

The OIC has been following up with great anxiety the deteriorating situation in Kashmir and escalation of tension between Pakistan and India, said a statement released by the OIC's Secretary-General Dr Hamid Al Ghabid.

The regional and international press has been publishing on daily basis reports on massacres and arrest of hundreds of people and rape of women in Kashmir, said the statement.

The OIC cannot tolerate repressive measures against the people of Kashmir, said the statement and added that "the basic rights of the people of Kashmir should be respected and efforts should be exerted to ensure peace and security in this part of the world."

We have received with great sorrow reports on the massacre carried out by Indian regular troops and paramilitary forces in Kashmir during the funeral procession of Moulavi Mohammed Farooq, the famous Muslim leader, recently assassinated by a group of Hindus in distressful circumstances, added the statement.

Indian-called strike falters

Fiji capital normal

SUVA, May 26, (UPI): A "day of protest" strike called by Fiji's ethnic Indian leaders yesterday to protest the closure of the Indian embassy received only mixed support from the country's Indian community.

The country's two main forms of transport, buses and taxis — which are mostly Indian-owned — were operating normally. In the capital, Suva, many ethnic Indian office workers reported for work, although Indian schools and Indian-owned shops and businesses were closed.

The Indian embassy was closed Thursday and its diplomatic corps ordered to leave the country within 14 days after the government accused the Indian government of interfering in Fiji's internal affairs.

India has opposed Fiji's readmission to the British Commonwealth and recently imposed a trade ban against the tiny South Pacific nation of 720,000. Slightly more than half the population is of Indian descent but the native Fijians control the army.

The closure of the Indian embassy is the latest incident in the cooling relations between the two countries since the military coups of May and September 1987.

The coups, led by Colonel Sitiveni Rabuka in the name of

preserving Fijian rights, overthrew the Indian-dominated Labour-National Federation Party coalition which was voted into government in April 1987.

Rabuka claimed impending legislation by the coalition would strip indigenous Fijians of their land rights.

The leader of Fiji's opposition party coalition said her country's "veiled threat" to opposition and Fiji-Indian leaders.

"I think it is a veiled threat both internally and to countries in the region which might be sympathetic to our cause," said Adi Kuini Bavadra, leader of the multiracial, ethnic Indian-dominated Fiji coalition party.

But a spokesman for Fiji Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara — who has promised to begin working on behalf of "indigenous Fijians" — suggested in a statement from Suva that Bavadra was not a "loyal citizen of Fiji."

"This is not an isolated action," said Bavadra, who arrived in Canberra Wednesday for a 12-day visit to Australia.

"This has been a planned action by the interim administration to assert their political power against any kind of opposition that would dare test the political hold that they have on the people of Fiji."

Pepsi goes to India

First time in 28 years

NEW DELHI, India, May 25, (AP): Pepsi-Cola went on sale in India for the first time in 28 years Wednesday following a bitter five-year battle to sell the US soft drink in the tightly controlled Indian market.

Pepsi, Seven-Up and Mirinda, an orange soda, hit the market in Jaipur, capital of the western state of Rajasthan, said Christopher Sinclair, president of Pepsi-Cola International. In the coming weeks, the drinks will be sold throughout the country, he said.

As part of an agreement with the Indian government to "Indianise" the drinks, they will carry the prefix lehar, meaning "wave" in Hindi.

To sweeten the pot, Sinclair, unveiled a 10-year, \$1 billion investment project for India. Targeted will be bottlers, distributors and other small businessmen.

He also released a copy of a letter written to US trade representative Carla Hills in which he urged the US government not to take action against India for alleged unfair trading practices under the super 301 process.

Still, the compromises are expected to pay off, say analysts, who believe Pepsi is poised to dominate the market.

India's \$350 million a year soft drink industry is controlled by three domestic soda kings, but industry analysts say there is room for growth. Indians consume an average of only three bottles of soft

drinks a year, compared to 13 in neighbouring Pakistan, 38 in Thailand and 550 in the United States.

Pepsi doesn't have any competition from its foe, Coca-Cola. In March, the Indian government turned down a Coke proposal to build a \$3 million soft drink plant.

Still, many view the Pepsi announcement as the last good news for foreign investment here. With the fall of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in November, India appears to have ended its brief economic liberalisation and is again closing its markets to foreigners. Prime Minister V. P. Singh recently said India is interested only in foreign investment in high technology.

Last year, foreign investment totalled only \$200 million and this year isn't expected to be much better.

Pepsi's experiences here read like a test case of the difficulties of investing in India, analysts say. Pepsi has been accused of paying bribes, unfair business practices and even possible links to terrorists. Its investment proposal faced more than 20 parliamentary debates and 15 committee reviews.

In a last-minute move, the government forced Pepsi to change the name of the soft drink from Pepsi Era to lehar Pepsi because Era wasn't considered sufficiently "Indian." The action cost Pepsi \$150,000 in bottle fees.

Indian envoy revives religion

HONG KONG, May 26, (Reuters): India's ambassador to Mongolia is a Buddhist monk who is an authority on the state of Mongolian Buddhism after seven decades of communism.

Kushok Bakula, who has just taken up his appointment, is also an authority on a religious revival now sweeping the sparsely populated, windswept steppes of the country three times the size of France.

"For 70 long years there has been almost no religion in Mongolia," Bakula, vice-president of the Mongolian-based Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace, said in an interview during a brief visit to Hong Kong.

The communists took power in Mongolia in 1921, systematically repressed Buddhism and banned religion between 1937 and 1944.

Monasteries were closed, destroyed or desecrated and 100 leading monks executed, the abbot of Gandan monastery in the Mongolian capital, Ulan Bator, said recently.

Gandan is now the only functioning monastery in Mongolia. Although suppression softened, the Tibetan Yellow Hat sect tradition of Buddhism practised in Mongolia continued to suffer.

"The most damaging was that people lost contact with Buddhism," says Bakula, wearing the maroon robes of Mahayana Buddhists and running beads through his fingers.

"There were no monasteries, monastic traditions were lost and there was no teaching," he said. "The monks now in Gandan monastery are not qualified to be monks."

Aspiring Buddhist Lamas there could not start monastic training before finishing secondary school and military service. "By then they were too old and often had lost interest," said Bakula. "Mongolian Buddhists have long wanted monastic training to start when boys are six years old."

Monks needed permission to appoint assistants and preaching in the countryside was forbidden. Buddhists were forced underground, shunning the officially sanctioned organisations.

Bakula, who was taken into a monastery in his native Indian Himalayan region of Ladakh at six and then studied at Tibet's Drepung monastery in Lhasa until he was 24, said Gandan now had only 150 monks. Before 1921, 120,000 monks practised in 747 monasteries throughout the country.

"But the figure of 150 monks is not small if you consider the conditions they have had to deal with," Bakula, 74, said through an interpreter. "At least the process is there."

Bakula, who speaks Ladakhi, Hindi and Tibetan, is involved in the Buddhist restoration in Mongolia.

In March the democracy movement there forced a new communist government to pledge free elections to the Great People's Hural, the country's Parliament, by late July.

Bakula is often at Gandan or teaching the scriptures of the Tibetan Yellow Hat sect, which was founded in 1409 as a fundamentalist breakaway from the older Red Hat sect.

He works closely with the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace — a 20-year-old group with members from all over Asia that promotes Buddhism and peace in the region — for the restoration of desecrated monasteries.

Bakula sees no conflict of interest between his Buddhist activities and his diplomatic duties. "Politically, relations between India and Mongolia are very cordial," he said. "With the new leadership and environment in Mongolia there is no objection to my working for Buddhism."

Tamil Tigers accused of killings, kidnappings

COLOMBO, May 26, (KUNA): Incidents of killings, kidnapping and assault in the northern and eastern provinces of Sri Lanka have been reported daily by security forces to the Joint Operations Command (JOC) in Colombo, JOC sources said today.

All these incidents are alleged to have been committed by the northern-based Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the sources added.

These sources said that these incidents are being committed at a time when the Sri Lan-

kan President, Ranasinghe Premadasa, is doing his best to bring about peace and harmony throughout the country.

A report to the JOC today said two soldiers, Wangasekera and Rupasinghe, who went on leave from their detachment in eastern Ampara district are missing allegedly kidnapped by the LTTE.

In eastern Batticaloa town a Sinhalese woman, Piyaseeli Silva, complained yesterday to the police that her husband, Sena, a prominent businessman had been abducted

by the LTTE while travelling in a bus.

Inquiries by police had revealed that Sena had been killed. But, when police got in contact with the LTTE although it had admitted the abduction and had said it had released him.

In eastern Trincomalee town armed LTTE cadres entered the police station and ordered the office in charge to report to the LTTE office. Upon the officer refusing to comply, he was assaulted with rifle butts and stones injuring him seriously.

INTERNATIONAL

World News Roundup

America

Train jumps tracks: A freight train derailed and a tanker car carrying grain alcohol exploded, sending a fireball into the sky and forcing the evacuation of 730 area residents.

Fifteen of the train's 90 cars derailed late Thursday in Covington, Tennessee. Eight of those contained flammable ethyl alcohol, authorities said.

Police reopen reservation: New York state police are allowing non-residents to enter this troubled Mohawk reservation for the first time in more than three weeks, authorities said.

State police barred all non-residents from entering St Regis Indian Reservation May 1, after two Indians died in gunfire between anti-pro-gambling Mohawk factions. (AP)

Activists arrested: Two members of a radical environmentalist group have been arrested in connection with a pipe bomb that blew apart their car, injuring them both, police said Friday in Oakland, California.

Judi Bari, 40, and Darryl Cherney, 33, were booked for investigation of explosives, said Oakland Police Lt Mike Sims. (AP)

Klan can wear masks: Ku Klux Klan members can wear hooded masks in public, a state judge said Friday, ruling a 39-year-old law designed to prohibit white supremacists from concealing their faces is unconstitutional.

State attorneys argued that abandoning the law will lead to a resurgence of Klan violence. The law is overly broad and violates Klan members' rights to free speech, association and protection under the law, state court judge Howard E. Cook ruled in Gwinnett County. (UPI)

Peace climbers back home: Jim Whitaker, leader of the "Mount Everest International Peace Climb," said Friday the expedition was even more successful than expected and demonstrated what co-operation between peoples of the world can accomplish.

US climbers who took part in the first joint ascent of Everest with mountaineers from the Soviet Union and China returned to the United States Friday after spending about two months conquering the world's tallest peak.

The climb "fulfilled our goal of friendship and co-operation," said Whitaker, 61, the leader of the expedition. "It shows that when we all work together, the highest goals can be reached." (UPI)

Ex-Nazi faces visa fraud charges: For the second time in three weeks, authorities in Honolulu have arrested a man they say was a former member of the Nazi SS who failed to disclose his past when he applied for a US visa.

Stefan Paal, 65, of Stuttgart, West Germany, arrived in Honolulu on Thursday on vacation. An immigration computer check showed he had served as a concentration camp guard during World War II, according to the US attorney's office here.

Under US law, former concentration camp guards are not to be issued US visas under any circumstances, according to a sworn statement by immigration inspector Joseph Rogers. (AP)

Soviet help in drug bust: A visiting Moscow police official spoke Russian while juggling a hotel doorknob, spurring the curious drug suspect inside to open the door to arresting police, authorities in Deland, Florida reported.

The visiting Soviet and his Deland police interpreter "posed as Russians attempting to gain access to the wrong room," said Deland Sgt Steve Dovi.

The Deland Hilton room occupants called hotel security, who came up to the room, police said. The occupants then opened the door to see what was going on, and Moscow police Col V.T. Bobryashov pushed the door open further to allow police officers in. (AP)

Coast Guard rejects proposal: The Coast Guard rejects proposals that it seek greater control over foreign-flagged cruise ships owned by US companies and carrying mostly US passengers, according to a letter released Thursday in Washington.

The letter from Coast Guard Commandant Paul Yost to the National Transportation Safety Board agrees with some of the board's recommendations for improving cruise ship safety.

But Yost said he favours pursuing most safety improvements through the International Maritime Organisation, since they then would apply to vessels world-wide and protect more US citizens. (AP)

Student exchange agreement: American University and Moscow State University Law School, which is Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's alma mater, have signed an agreement to exchange students beginning in September 1990, American University officials said Friday.

The three-year contract provides for exchanges of students and faculty.

Two Soviet graduate law students and a Soviet professor of criminal statistics will attend American University in Washington. Four to eight American University undergraduate or graduate students will go to the Soviet law school for one to two semesters. (UPI)

Reagan sick

No travel to Europe

LOS ANGELES, May 26. (AP) Former president Ronald Reagan must cancel a trip to Europe and limit his activities for several weeks because of complications from cancer surgery in 1975, a spokesman said.

But Reagan, 79, still plans to fly to San Francisco next month to meet with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, spokesman Mack Weinberg said yesterday.

"Several small adhesions have developed in president Reagan's small intestine, which his physicians believe are a result of his abdominal surgery in 1975," Weinberg said.

Adhesions often appear after abdominal surgery and are rarely serious, said Zigmund Petrovich, a specialist in colorectal cancer at the University of Southern California.

Acid rain pollutants: The industrial pollutants that cause acid rain also may be contributing to an increase in respiratory problems, especially in children, Canadian and US researchers said.

Airborne acids generated primarily by sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxide emitted by coal-fired industrial plants can cause a wide variety of acute and chronic respiratory illnesses, said Dr David Bates of the University of British Columbia in Canada.

Researchers have shown that high levels of the pollutants can affect lung function in normal children exercising outside and can cause breathing problems for some children, said Bates and Dr Mark Urell of Strong Memorial Hospital in Rochester, New York.

Children and adults with chronic respiratory problems appear to be more sensitive than others to the damaging effects of the particles, known as acid aerosols, they said.

A large proportion of North Americans now are being exposed to acid aerosols, especially in summer months when the pollutants are at their highest levels, Bates and Urell said Thursday at the world conference on lung health, co-sponsored by the American Lung Association.

Although much attention has been focused on the environmental impact of acid rain on fish and other wildlife, Bates said, the effects of acid aerosols on human health are only beginning to be known. (UPI)

Minimise sun-bathing: Health officials warned Americans Thursday to minimise sun-bathing, saying the death rate from the most deadly form of skin cancer linked to sunlight exposure jumped more than 25 per cent in the last decade.

The number of malignant melanoma deaths increased 25.9 per cent between 1973 and 1985, the latest years for which figures are available, the US Centers for Disease Control said in its morbidity and mortality weekly report.

The increase represented the largest jump in fatalities from any type of cancer during the 12-year period except that of the lung, the CDC report said.

White men, who experienced a 34.1 per cent fatality rate increase from the cancer between 1973 and 1985, are the most vulnerable to the disease, the report said.

The CDC estimates 27,000 new cases of the disease developed in 1989 and 6,000 victims died.

Symptoms of the cancer — the most deadly of skin cancers — include a drastic change in a mole or a change in skin colour. Early detection can help reduce the risk of death, caused by the spread of the malignancy to other organs.

To reduce the chances of developing the cancer, the CDC recommends minimising exposure to the sun between 10 am and 3 pm, wearing a hat to protect the face and clothing to protect the shoulders and back from sunburn.

Multiple sclerosis: Scientists reported Thursday they have zeroed in on immune cells that appear responsible for the nerve damage of multiple sclerosis, possibly leading to better treatments for the debilitating disease.

About 250,000 people in the United States, mostly between ages 20 and 40, suffer from multiple sclerosis or MS. An unpredictable, chronic disease, MS destroys the protective sheathing around nerve cells and hinders the ability of the brain and spinal cord to control movement, speech and vision.

The exact cause of MS is not known. Recent evidence has suggested that in MS patients, one kind of immune system cell called T-cells goes awry and attacks the protective sheathing.

Europe

Police question: British police were Saturday questioning a man after a fire at a mosque near London.

Thames Valley police, outside London, said they were interviewing the man after a racial attack after burning cans of petrol were placed outside the front door of the mosque in Faverley Drive, Milton Keynes, near the British capital, yesterday.

The fire, which was extinguished by police, caused slight damage to the entrance, the police said.

So far, no further details about the man's identity or motive were available. (Kuna)

Heart-lung patient: Three-year-old Stephen Holist, Britain's youngest heart-lung transplant patient, has left hospital with a new life ahead of him, it was reported Saturday.

Three weeks ago he was critically ill and was given a new heart and lungs at Killingbeck Hospital, Leeds, Northern England.

Since then his progress has been "spectacular," and last night his parents drove him home to a surprise reception.

His surgeon Duncan Walker said "We hope Stephen can lead as normal a childhood as possible." (Kuna)

Arsonists attack: Arsonists staged fresh attacks against Sweden's refugee community at the weekend, hurling a smoke bomb among sleeping families and burning several cars.

Police said the assailants were unknown but described them as racists. They said nobody was seriously hurt in the incidents. Refugees have now been the victims of four such attacks.

Eleven spluttering people were taken to hospital for observation after a smoke canister was thrown at their hostel in Motala, southern Sweden, on Friday night. (Reuters)

Black Sea resort: A Black Sea resort once reserved for upper-echelon Communist Party officials in Bulgaria will be transformed into one of Club Mediterranean's trademark "villages," an official said Friday.

Officials at Club Med, as the French resort empire is popularly known, said a contract will be signed with Bulgarian Tourism Minister Stoyan Zhulev within a few days. (AP)

Arms find: Irish police were Saturday questioning two men after what they called a "substantial" arms find in the Irish Republic, it was reported in Dublin.

The suspects were detained under the anti-terrorist legislation after being stopped in a van on the outskirts of Limerick in the Irish Republic.

In the vehicle were boxes of Kalashnikov assault rifles and Semtex, the IRA's favourite bomb-making explosive, Irish police said. (Kuna)

Runcle: Runcle (left) shakes hands with Uruguayan President Luis Lacalle, May 25 in Montevideo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Aids children: About 200 children all over the Soviet Union are infected with Aids, official statistics said Thursday.

The figures said that most of the children infected with this deadly disease appeared to be living in Volgograd province, one of the largest towns in the Soviet Union.

Health experts indicated that careless doctors, shortage of needles are behind the spread of Aids among children. (Kuna)

Violent crime: Violent crime in Italy is no worse than in many other European nations, Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti said on Friday to defend his government's record on the mafia against an opposition challenge.

Andreotti told the chamber of deputies (lower house) that Italy could not be complacent about organised crime, but said the government had stepped up the fight against the mafia in recent years and given wider powers to investigators. (Reuters)

Atom power plant: Norway said on Wednesday it was concerned by reports of inadequate safety at an ageing, Soviet-built nuclear power plant in East Germany and urged both East and West Germany to clamp down on any shortcomings.

The government is concerned over reports of lack of safety at the nuclear power plant at Greifswald and requests that necessary measures be found immediately," the Foreign Ministry said. (Reuters)

Cardinal dies: The Soviet Union's first resident Cardinal Jullians Vaivods, has died at his home in Riga, Latvia, Vatican radio said Friday. He was 94.

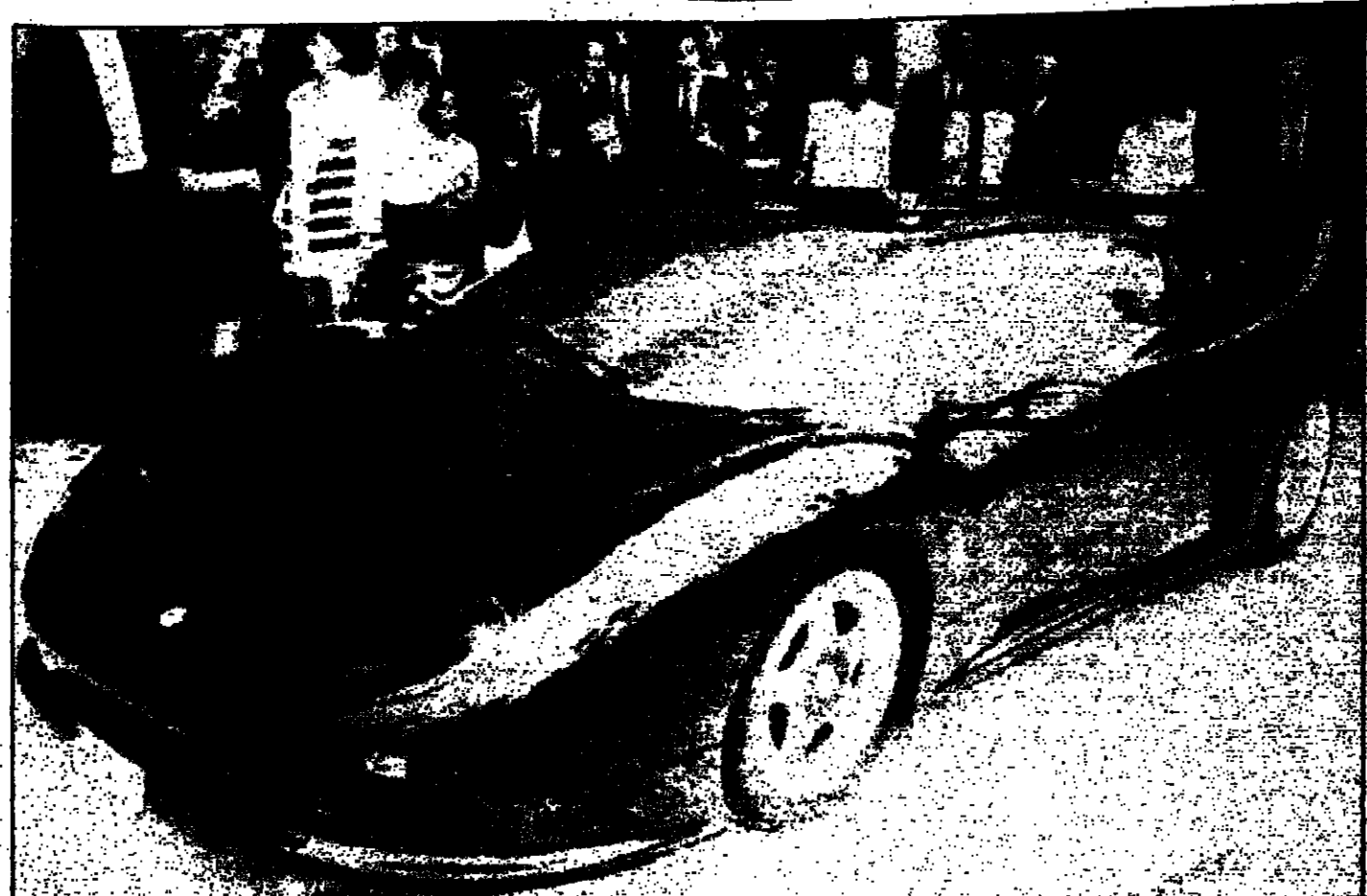
Pope John Paul II, who elevated Vaivods to Cardinal's rank in 1983, sent a telegram of sympathy Friday to auxiliary Bishop Janis Cakuls of Riga.

Vatican Radio's Latvian-language service said Vaivods died Thursday afternoon. It said he had been ill since he was hospitalized 10 days earlier in a fall. The Cardinal then developed pneumonia and finally, heart failure, the radio service said. (AP)

Libel suit: A Lutheran bishop was convicted of libel after he called a fellow clergyman "disloyal" for writing anti-immigration letters to Norwegian newspapers.

The Bodoe City court, in a 2-1 decision, ordered Bishop Fredrik Groeningsaeter to pay his subordinate, Pastor Olaf B. Dal, 12,000 kroner (\$1,492) in compensation.

Groeningsaeter said he will appeal the verdict which was reached Wednesday and published Friday. Dal wrote to newspapers in 1987 and 1988 opposing mass immigration to Norway. (AP)



Monaco's first car

The tiny principality of Monaco, long known for auto races such as the Monte Carlo rally and the Monaco Grand Prix, unveiled its own automobile, Friday.

To celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Automobile Club of Monaco, the sponsor of the races, the principality will produce the "Centenary," designed by Fulvio Maria Ballabio and Isala Fiooco.

With a list price of 2.5 million francs (\$439,000), the sleek car is not for the average buyer.

Super collider talks: The United States will make the first invitation for foreign participation in the superconducting super collider to Japan and South Korea, Deputy Secretary of Energy Henson Moore said Friday.

Moore and a team of administration officials are scheduled to visit Japan and South Korea next week to discuss the project with government officials.

Moore said foreign participation was typical in all large science labs and Congress has insisted on it for the collider, to be built south of Dallas. (AP)

Dissolves assembly: Sabah, Malaysia's only Christian-controlled state, dissolved its state assembly on Saturday and said it would call for snap elections a year ahead of schedule.

Chief Minister Joseph Pairin Kitingan told reporters he had dissolved the 54-seat assembly of the timber-rich state on Borneo Island, often referred to as the "Wild East" for its intricate and sometimes violent politics. (Reuters)

US-Malaysia workers talks: The actual situation of workers in Malaysia will be explained to the United States so that the General System of Preferences (GSP) will not be withdrawn, Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohamed said today.

He said his government would strive to contact the United States administration directly so that it would not accept the petition of the International Labour Rights Education and Research fund calling for the withdrawal of the GSP status. (Kuna)

Taiwan, Guinea: Taiwan, which set up formal ties with Lesotho last month, scored another diplomatic victory on Saturday by establishing relations with the West African republic of Guinea-Bissau.

The official agreement was signed in Taipei by Taiwan's Foreign Minister Lein Chan and his Guinean counterpart Julio Semedo. (Reuters)

China opposes Japanese bank: China's Central Bank has warned of unspecified "consequences" if the Bank of Tokyo goes ahead with reported plans to open a representative office in Taiwan, an official Chinese daily reported Saturday.

The economic daily quoted Wang Chongming, spokesman of the People's Bank of China, as urging the Japanese bank to rescind its decision to open the Taiwan office.

"Otherwise, any consequences which result from this will be the sole responsibility of the Bank of Tokyo," Wang said without elaborating. (AP)

Chatichai embarrasses Tokyo: Thai Prime Minister Chatichai Choonavan provoked his Asian neighbours and embarrassed Tokyo by proposing to hold Thai-Japanese naval manoeuvres.

Choonavan had presented his proposal during the visit of Japanese Defence Agency chief Yozo Ishikawa to Bangkok within the framework of his South East Asia tour.

The first reactions to the proposal came from Malaysia and Singapore which affirmed that South East Asia agrees on encouraging Japan to widen its economical strength in the region but is convinced that it should keep its weapons inside Japan. (Kuna)

Answers queries: Mrs Ng (left) mother of Ng Yiu-Kwok one of eight Hong Kong people due to die on the gallows in Malaysia on drug-smuggling charges, answers questions at a press conference in Hong Kong May 25. (Reuters wirephoto)

The carbonium body will be made in the principality's industrial sector of Fontvieille but the motor, a V12 Lamborghini — will be manufactured in Turin, Italy.

About 15 craftsmen will produce one car a month. The first will come available in 1991.

Penguin carcasses found: This report of endangered penguins, which were found in a plane, was found in the flooded hold of a Taiwanese trawler that ran aground, environmental officials said Friday in Cape Town, South Africa.

The fishing trawler Anh Hung ran aground on the rocky southwestern coast of Africa early Tuesday. Fifteen crew members were rescued by helicopter, but another who had left in a lifeboat was found dead on the beach later that day. (AP)

Liberians ask UN: More than 1,000 refugees invaded the grounds of the United Nations office in the Liberian capital Monrovia on Saturday, demanding protection and food.

The refugees, mostly women and children, said they had fled their homes because of harassment at night by armed men. Their husbands had escaped earlier for fear of being infected with rebels who have taken over a third of the country. (Reuters)

Contras break off talks: Nicaraguan rebels broke off disarmament talks Friday, accusing the Sandinista-dominated army of killing 14 unarmed guerrillas and 400 civilians in northern Nicaragua.

Defence Ministry spokesman Carlos Lara called the charges "totally false."

The conservative government of Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, which succeeded the leftist Sandinista administration a month ago but left Sandinistas in charge of the military, promised to look into the report. (AP)

Aid not a panacea: Endara: Panamanian President Guillermo Endara thanked President George Bush Friday for US Congress approval of \$420 million aid package for Panama but said the money does not guarantee his country's economic recovery.

"It (the aid) is not a panacea that by magic will liberate us from all our problems nor is it a guarantee of economic recovery," Endara said at a press conference. "We are going to achieve the recovery ourselves, with our work, with our common force."

Bush told Endara by telephone Friday morning that the aid had been approved after months of debate in the US House and Senate. The bill was approved five months after invading US forces ousted dictator Manuel Noriega and installed Endara. (UPI)

US denies allegations: The US government on Friday denied allegations by former political prisoners in Cuba that Washington was refusing them US entry visas to force them to stay behind and overthrow President Fidel Castro's communist rule.

"It is not the policy of the US government to encourage any individual or group in Cuba to overthrow the government violently or otherwise," the US interests section in Havana said in a statement.

The mission was responding to accusations by three former political prisoners who told foreign reporters in Havana that they and more than 1,000 like them were being denied US entry visas even though Cuban authorities had granted them permission to leave. (Reuters)

No US advisers: Calderon: Panama's vice president said Friday there are no US advisers in his country to help the government and fewer US troops remain than before the United States invaded last December.

Vice President Ricardo Arias Calderon, in Caracas for a one-day meeting with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, told reporters here that the United States had neither political nor military advisers in Panama.

"There are fewer troops now than before the North American military invasion," he added. (AP)

Fire in Barbados: A huge fire, possibly started by a welder's torch, destroyed eight downtown buildings and caused millions of dollars in damage on Friday in Bridgetown, Barbados before being brought under control.

Several bystanders were treated for smoke inhalation, but no other injuries were reported, fire officials said.

The fire broke out Thursday afternoon in the city's financial district and eventually spread to seven other buildings in the heart of Bridgetown's commercial district. (AP)



The Fall of Phaeton

Carter Brown, director of the National Gallery of Art, admires the gallery's latest acquisition Peter Paul Rubens' 'The Fall of Phaeton.' The

paintings will be displayed starting May 30, the 350th anniversary of the death of the Flemish painter. (Reuters wirephoto)

BUSINESS & FINANCE

The week in business

American trade deficit with Japan decreases

Durable goods orders slip

NEW YORK, May 26, (UPI): There was good and bad news on the economic front this week. The government reported inflation reached a nine-year high, the economy grew at a sluggish 1.3 per cent rate in the first quarter and the thrift crisis worsened.

Nevertheless, the trade deficit declined to its lowest level in six years and a survey of economists concluded there would be no recession at least through 1991. The Commerce Department said Thursday the nation's economy grew at an annual rate of 1.3 per cent, or \$13.9 billion, during the first quarter and inflation topped a nine-year high at 6.7 per cent.

The gross national product fixed-weight price index, a measure of inflation, reached 6.7 per cent during the first quarter, the highest reading since 7.7 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1981.

About half of the first-quarter increase in inflation was attributed to higher food and energy prices in January after December's unusually cold weather — more of a slip than a trend.

The department reported Wednesday that declining orders for motor vehicles and aircraft pushed new orders for durable goods down 4.1 per cent, or \$5.3 billion, in April.

The decline — more than twice what several economists had expected — followed increases of 6.5 per cent in March and 2.4 per cent in February. In January, durable goods orders slipped 10.5 per cent.

In addition, stubbornly high mortgage rates pushed sales of existing homes down 2.1 per cent national thrift's board in 1985. Protecting the thrift's depositors from losses is expected to cost taxpayers more than \$1 billion.

On the positive side the ledger, the Commerce Department Friday reported that the US merchandise first-quarter trade deficit fell to its lowest level since the fourth quarter of 1983, \$26.4 billion.

American personal income up

WASHINGTON, May 26, (AP): Personal income edged up 0.3 per cent in April, the lowest rate in seven months and only half of the 0.6 per cent increase in consumer spending, the government said yesterday.

The result was a drop in Americans' savings rate — savings as a per cent of disposable income — from 5.8 per cent in March to 5.5 per cent in April. The rate had been 5.5 per cent in February, up from 5.3 per cent in January.

The Commerce Department reported that incomes totaled a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$4.69 trillion following 8 per cent gains during the three previous months.

It was the lowest rate since it dropped to 0.2 per cent last September. Consumer spending totaled a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$3.68 trillion after 0.5 per cent increases in both February and March. It was the largest gain since it jumped 1.2 per cent in January.

The Commerce Department reported that incomes totaled a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$4.69 trillion following 8 per cent gains during the three previous months.

Consumer spending is considered a barometer of economic health since it accounts for about two-thirds of the nation's economic activity.

The April and March increases in personal income were affected by "subsidy payments to farm proprietors," the department said. "The payments lowered the April change after raising the March change."

Excluding the subsidy payments, personal incomes rose 0 per cent in both months. The report said Americans' income after taxes slowed to a 0.2 per cent increase from a 0.8 per cent gain in March and a 0.7 per cent jump in February. It had risen 0.9 per cent in both December and January.

The key component of the income category — wages and salaries — rose \$19.1 billion at an annual rate after a \$15.4 billion gain in March.

On the spending side, the increase in personal consumption, which includes everything except interest payments on debt, totaled \$21.9 billion, up from 19.4 billion in March. Purchases of durable goods — products expected to last at least three years — rebounded \$3.8 billion from a \$3.2 billion drop in March. Purchases of non-durable goods also bounced back, gaining \$1.3 billion after falling 400 million the previous month.

KLM reports profit slump

AMSTERDAM, May 26, (Reuters): KLM Royal Dutch Airlines said yesterday that its net profit fell 9.1 per cent to 340 million guilders (\$180 million) last year, chiefly because of higher fuel and financing costs and depreciations.

KLM only gave key preliminary figures for the 12 months to the end of March, but reports for previous quarters show at least 40 per cent of the year's net profit came from an extraordinary income against no such gain in 1988/89.

Without this one-off gain, mainly from selling a courier service to Australia's TNT Ltd, net profit would have fallen 45 per cent, despite an eight per cent rise in revenue to 6.5 billion guilders (\$3.4 billion).

KLM blamed sharply higher fuel costs and depreciation for a 20 per cent fall in operating profit before financial costs and taxes to 310 million guilders (\$165 million).

It added that financial costs had also risen, but gave no details.

Roel Goossens, an analyst with brokers Van Meer James Capel, estimated that KLM's financing costs more than doubled to about 200 million guilders (\$106 million) as high interest rates boosted the cost of modernising and expanding its fleet.

Kuwait trade volume surges

Market turns mixed

THE Al Shail Index for Kuwaiti shareholding companies recorded on Wednesday an average of 39.36 points with a decrease of 0.07 point — 0.18 per cent — from last week's average.

The Al Shail Index for non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies reached 53.43 points with an increase of 0.72 point — 1.37 per cent — for the same period, according to Al Shail weekly market review.

The trading volume for Kuwaiti shares reached 18.85 million shares at a daily average of 3.77 million shares with an increase of 44 per cent over previous week's daily average of 3.63 million shares.

Non-Kuwaiti traded shares reached 1.720 million shares at a daily average of 0.244 million shares with a decrease of 81 per cent from last week's daily average of 1.804 million shares.

The value of Kuwaiti traded shares was K.D. 8.11 million at a daily average of K.D. 1.62 million, an increase of 53 per cent over last week's daily average of K.D. 1.06 million.

The value of non-Kuwaiti traded shares was K.D. 0.059 million at a daily average of K.D. 0.012 million, a decrease of 85 per cent from last week's average of K.D. 0.081 million.

For the Kuwaiti Shares market, the Banking sector came first at 48 per cent of total trading against 42 per cent last week. The National Bank of Kuwait had the lead at 54 per cent followed by The Gulf Bank at 30 per cent and Kuwait Finance House at 4 per cent.

The Investment Sector came second at 32 per cent in which Coast Investment & Development Company had the lead at 44 per cent, followed by Commercial Facilities Company at 34 per cent and Kuwait Investment Projects Company at 11 per cent. The Real Estate Sector came third at 10 per cent in which Pearl of Kuwait Real Estate Company had the lead at 73 per cent, followed by United Realty Company at 18 per cent, and Kuwait Real Estate Company at 9 per cent.

As for the non-Kuwaiti shares market, Sharjah Cement & Industrial Development Company had the lead at 48 per cent, followed by Arabian General Investment Company (SHUA'A) at 29 per cent and Umm-Al Qaiwain Cement Industries Company at 23 per cent.

The market gave signs of mixed activity inclined to the active side in the Kuwaiti shares market which is considered more important than the other markets while indices of the non-Kuwaiti market fell considerably.

Trading activity was concentrated in the shares of the Banking Sector and more precisely in the shares of the National Bank of Kuwait which increased the value of trading in the Kuwaiti shares market.

The market has been going through a period of sluggishness which started before the beginning of the present year with few short intervals of activity occurring in one of the markets which later resumes its previous weak performance. We believe that all companies that planned on distributing dividends for 1989 have declared their distributions.

This year's distributions reflect better results than those of the past three years except 1987 distributions which were less inclined to stock distributions.

Kuwait shareholding companies index

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Non-Kuwaiti shareholding companies index

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—Based period 31/12/1989.

—All the companies listed by the Stock Exchange under non-Kuwaiti companies are included.

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NBK study

American economy remains sluggish

ECONOMIC data released this week continues to support our view that the US economy remains sluggish with a large fall experienced in new orders for manufactured durable goods as well as an unexpected downward revision in the GNP growth rate for the first quarter of this year, according to NBK weekly market review.

The dollar strengthened against the EMS currencies but lost ground to the yen and ended the week at — DM1.68 and yen 149.6.

As anticipated the dollar has started to adopt a firmer tone and is expected to continue to benefit from its safe-haven status in view of the problems currently being experienced in Europe and the Soviet Union.

It is still considered unlikely that any change will be made to monetary policy in the near future although longer term it is anticipated that the Federal Reserve will ultimately ease as the slowdown in the US economy increases.

A number of economic indicators are due out next week including leading indicator, unemployment and factory order which will provide further evidence to the extent of moderating activity.

Trading ranges for the coming week are forecast to be as follows: DM 1.66—1.70 and yen 147.5-151.5.

Strong domestic demand and higher imports contributed to a larger than expected trade deficit in April which curtailed the recent stock and bond market rallies.

In addition the rapid increase in the money supply together with the considerable rise in manufacturing output suggests that the UK economy remains adequately robust in spite of the government's high interest rate policy.

Sterling ended the week at — £/S 1.69 and £/DM 2.84.

The rise in unit wage costs in the first three months of this year underlines the continuing increase in inflationary pressures and this trend is set to continue for the time being as wage settlements of approximately 10 per cent are still being agreed. With the high interest rate levels providing unsuccessful in slowing down the economy a reduction in rates is highly unlikely and an increase should still not be ruled out.

However, the likelihood of early entry into the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System is expected to continue to support sterling for the time being.

With very little new economic data due out next week trading ranges are forecast to be as follows: DM 2.82 and £/S 1.67-1.72.

For most of the week the deuschemark has continued to be undermined by uncertainty surrounding the terms of economic union together with inflationary fears. However, recent speculation that the Bundesbank was considering intervention caused the German unit to recover slightly. The German central bank wishes to maintain a tight monetary policy in order to keep a firm exchange rates.

IMF renews aid to Argentina

WASHINGTON, May 26, (AP): The International Monetary Fund will let Argentina draw \$240 million of a \$1.7-billion loan that the fund suspended last February, an IMF spokesman said yesterday.

The fund was suspended when President Carlos Menem's government failed to meet agreed conditions.

The spokesman, who gave the information on condition he not be named, said Argentina's conditions for this year have been revised. He would not disclose them. He added that the drawing had been permitted because of the forceful policies of the government.

He said Argentina could use part of the \$240 million to buy back some of its \$60-billion debt at a discount. It owes about \$40 billion to banks. Last week its debt to banks could be bought on the New York market for 14 cents on the dollar.

The fund's loan can also be used to support other arrangements that Argentina may make with the banks that hold the debt, to reduce the \$4-billion in payments due them every year. One official said the amount available for these purposes would be more than 25 per cent of the \$240-million drawing.

Argentina has fallen behind on its payments and owes another \$6 billion in arrears.

Corporation plans further expansion

ABC launches share offer

BAHRAIN, May 26, (Agencies): Arab Banking Corporation BSC (ABC) launched a public offering of 25 million shares in Bahrain today, bankers said.

The Bahrain-based ABC, the Arab world's largest bank, has set a \$10 nominal price per share and a \$4 premium, payable in full.

An ABC statement set the minimum purchase of shares at 50.

The share issue will boost the bank's paid-in capital to \$1 billion from \$750 million. Applications have been made to list shares on the Kuwait and Paris stock exchanges.

Shareholders amended the nominal value of ABC's shares to \$10 from \$100 at an extraordinary meeting in December 1989, increasing the number of issued shares to 75 million from 7.5 million.

The statement said the reasons for the increase were to broaden the shareholder base, to diversify and widen sources of funds and to use part of the proceeds of the share issue in capitalising a subsidiary banking operation in Europe.

ABC has branches in London, Paris and Milan. It plans to incorporate them under one umbrella to gain a foothold in Europe after the unification of markets in 1992.

Five million shares were earmarked for firms and investors outside the region.

The shares are being offered on the Bahrain Stock Exchange and at three local commercial banks — National Bank of Bahrain, Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait and Al Ahli Commercial Bank.

The offer makes ABC, previously

owned by Kuwait's Finance Ministry, the Libyan Treasury and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority, the first Gulf-based firm to offer its shares to investors on the open market.

ABC, with total assets of \$21.73 billion at the end of 1989, transferred its entire net 1989 profit of \$132 million to loan loss provisions.

Bank president Abdullah Saudi has said the bank would make further provisions in the few years but expected to allocate around \$70-75 million for dividends.

ABC will use funds from its \$250 million international share offering to continue expansion of commercial banking operations in the Arab world and outside, and to finance a new bank in Europe.

Last year ABC showed pre-tax

profits of \$35 million, which was down sharply from \$142 million the year before owing to non-payment of interest by less developed countries (LDCs). The bank applied all this profit to LDC provisions, which are now equivalent to 43 per cent of exposure.

The group's capital ratio under the new international rules is 11.8 per cent, well above the agreed minimum of eight per cent.

ABC is active in obtaining and placing interbank deposits and in foreign exchange dealing (both on behalf of customers and for its own account) and is an active participant in syndicated credit markets and in underwriting securities. ABC provides a full range of trade and project finance services including short and medium term loans, letters of credit and contract

guarantees.

ABC also offers its customers corporate finance, discretionary funds management and financial advisory services.

ABC conducts its activities through branches in Bahrain, New York, London, Paris, Singapore, Grand Cayman and Milan and through several subsidiaries, including the listed Spanish bank, Banco Atlantico S.A. (56 per cent owned by ABC). Banco Atlantico accounted for 37 per cent of ABC's consolidated total assets as at 31st December 1989.

For the 1990s ABC sees major opportunities in three regions — the Arab world, Europe and the Pacific rim — and in trade and investment flows between the regions. ABC started the process of creating the network to pur-

sue business in these regions shortly after it was established and ABC will allocate substantial further resources to strengthen this network over the next several years.

In the Arab world, ABC already has offices in Bahrain, Tripoli and Tunis and a joint venture subsidiary in Jordan.

In Europe in preparation for 1992 ABC is restructuring its presence and has announced its intention to establish a European banking subsidiary to assume and integrate the activities of its existing branch operations and certain of its UK-based subsidiaries.

In the Pacific rim, ABC plans to open new offices and explore new investment opportunities in addition to ABC group presences in Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and Japan.

Fed to adopt a stimulative credit policy

Opposite roads for stocks, real estate

NEW YORK, May 26, (Agencies): The worlds of two of the nation's most popular investments — stocks and real estate — are about as far apart as they can get right now.

The stock market has been forging ahead, reaching a succession of record highs over the past two weeks.

The real estate and housing markets, on the other hand, are suffering a protracted period of weakness that extends into many parts of the country.

Analysts are quick to point out that this divergence is by no means unique. In the 1970s, for example, real estate prices surged ahead on the crest of a wave of inflation, while the stock market languished for much of the time.

In theory, at least, financial observers say the current disparity could persist for a similarly long time.

But sooner or later, many feel, ripple effects from either market could exert an influence on the other. Just how and when that might occur is a subject of much

debate on Wall Street.

One theory holds that slumping real estate prices and housing starts reflect a squeeze on credit that somehow has failed to make an impression yet on investors in the stock market, but that sooner or later will prove impossible to ignore.

On the opposite side of the argument, optimists say the woes of real estate and construction may well prompt the Federal Reserve eventually to adopt a stimulative credit policy, stoking the stock and bond markets with fuel for further gains.

"A drop in construction and real estate activity cuts a wide swath," said Michael Sherman, investment strategist at Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc.

"It hits almost every owner of real estate, almost every vendor in the construction industry, and nearly every lender in the financial markets. The only beneficiaries are those few people who have held back before buying or building."

"In short, a major downturn in this area would be broadly deflationary and the Fed would know that."

"As a consequence, if the current weakness we see emerging in construction continues and accelerates, monetary policy will have to change. As it does, it will enhance the outlook for financial assets."

Talk of that sort helped stock prices extend their spring rally in the past week. Even with a setback yesterday, the Dow Jones average of 30 industrials rose 1.01 to 2,820.92, recording its fourth consecutive weekly gain.

The New York Stock Exchange Composite index edged up 0.16 to 193.71; the Nasdaq Composite index for the over-the-counter market rose 5.29 to 453.60 and the American Stock Exchange Market Value index was up 3.52 at 359.84.

Volume on the Big Board averaged 163.47 million shares a day against 175.65 million the week before.

In the eyes of James Grant, a newsletter publisher and vocal bear on the financial outlook, stocks look vulnerable to some of the same problems that have hurt real estate.

"The stock market is a creature of credit," he writes in the issue of Grant's Interest Rate Observer published yesterday. "It cares about the treasury market. It depends even more on the cost and availability of business credit."

"The expansion of credit tends to be bullish, and the contraction of credit tends to be bearish. In the 1980s, reckless lenders expanded credit. In the 1990s, timid lenders will shrink it."

"It is only 1990, but the contraction is under way. It therefore stands to reason that stock prices are headed lower."

A big selloff in high-flying technology stock pounded Wall Street on Friday, extending losses to a second session following record highs reached earlier in the week.

Iran, Malaysia to expand trade

Protocol signed

NICOSIA, May 26, (AP): Malaysian Foreign Minister Abu Hassan Omar today signed a protocol boosting trade between the two Muslim countries to \$200 million a year, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

Tehran Radio, like the official agency monitored in Nicosia, said Malaysia agreed to buy 10,000-20,000 barrels of Iranian crude oil a day for one year.

Omar later ended a three-day visit during which he attended the second meeting of the Iran-Malaysia joint economic commission.

He described his visit as "successful" before he was seen off at Tehran's Mehrabad airport by Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran said.

Tehran Radio reported that "important agreements were reached for removing hurdles in improving ties and increasing trade between the two countries."

The radio said the agreements call for the "creation of necessary facilities to expand trade in pharmaceuticals, palm oil, electrical goods, rubber and other non-oil products."

Iran, which currently buys some \$20 million worth of goods a year from Malaysia — mainly timber, tin, rubber and palm oil — has long sought

to narrow a trade gap which now favours Kuala Lumpur.

Velayati suggested during a visit to Kuala Lumpur last year that Malaysia buy more Iranian goods besides oil, Persian carpets and foodstuffs.

He was told by Omar that it was up to Iran to promote its products in Malaysia's free market.

The Iranians have established air and sea links with Malaysia to promote trade.

Agreements Omar signed in Tehran and the efforts to boost trade were seen as an indication that Iran has persuaded Kuala Lumpur to buy more products by raising the overall trade between the two countries.

Iran's Islamic government prefers wherever possible to do business with other Muslim countries.

In a meeting with Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani on Thursday, Omar said that as a permanent member of the UN Security Council Malaysia would put its weight behind efforts to implement United Nations resolution 598 for a lasting peace between Iran and Iraq.

A UN-sponsored ceasefire that halted the 8-year Iran-Iraq war took effect in August 1988. But peace talks have deadlocked.

Strike set in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 26, (UPI): More than 1,000 Brazilian labour unions have called for a general strike June 6 to protest salary curbs and job layoffs.

Labour union leaders said Friday the walkout will be led by the Consolidated Workers Central, Brazil's largest umbrella organisation that represents 1,000 unions, and separate unions representing workers in the petroleum industry, construction, public administration, ports, urban services, and banks.

One large labour group, however, is not joining the walkout.

Francisco Caninde, president of the General Labour Confederation, Brazil's second largest umbrella union group, said his organisation opposes the June 6 date for the walkout, although it was sympathetic to the idea of a general strike.

Thousands flood shops

Moscow pleads for end to panic buying

MOSCOW, May 26, (Reuters): Moscow city authorities pleaded today for an end to panic buying sparked by looming price rises as thousands of people queued for hours to buy food.

"We lost faith in the government. The only thing we believe in now is God," said a young woman, carrying several large bags stuffed with meat and cheese.

In response to the chaos, Moscow City Council postponed till Monday a two-week ban on food sales to out-of-town residents which it had originally said would take effect today.

Mass buying was sparked when Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov appeared on television on Thursday to outline government plans for a market economy under which basic food prices would soar.

Shoppers in central Moscow, where several food stores shut their doors because of overcrowding, also snapped up clothing, shoes and household goods in the hoarding spree.

"Once the prices have risen, there are going to be two kinds of people in this country — a few rich ones and lots of very poor ones," said a man standing in a long meat queue.

Ryzhkov promised that key

elements of the reform package would be put to public debate, and President Mikhail Gorbachev's economic adviser Leonid Abalkin has said the government is ready to hold a national referendum on it.

Few people were in any doubt as to how they would vote.

"Against, of course," said one middle-aged woman, carrying several household items. "They say everything will be better if the prices go up, but we don't trust them."

Moscow Mayor Gavril Popov told a news conference that city stores had sold more vegetable oil and flour yesterday than they normally sold in an entire month, and he appealed for calm.

He said Moscow authorities had been taken completely by surprise by Ryzhkov's speech and that the prime minister should have made clear that the reform package — currently being discussed in parliament — had not yet become law.

"If someone thinks that a suit costing 2,000 rubles (\$3,200) will soon cost 3,000 doubles (\$4,800), he'll go out and buy it now. It's a natural human reaction," Popov said.

"The situation in the city is getting critical. There is a real



Soviets queue in front of a Moscow shop as housewives rush to hoard goods. (Reuters wirephoto)

danger of things getting out of control. Hundreds of thousands of people are in the shops."

The food buying ban will hit hundreds of thousands of non-Muscovites who work illegally in Moscow.

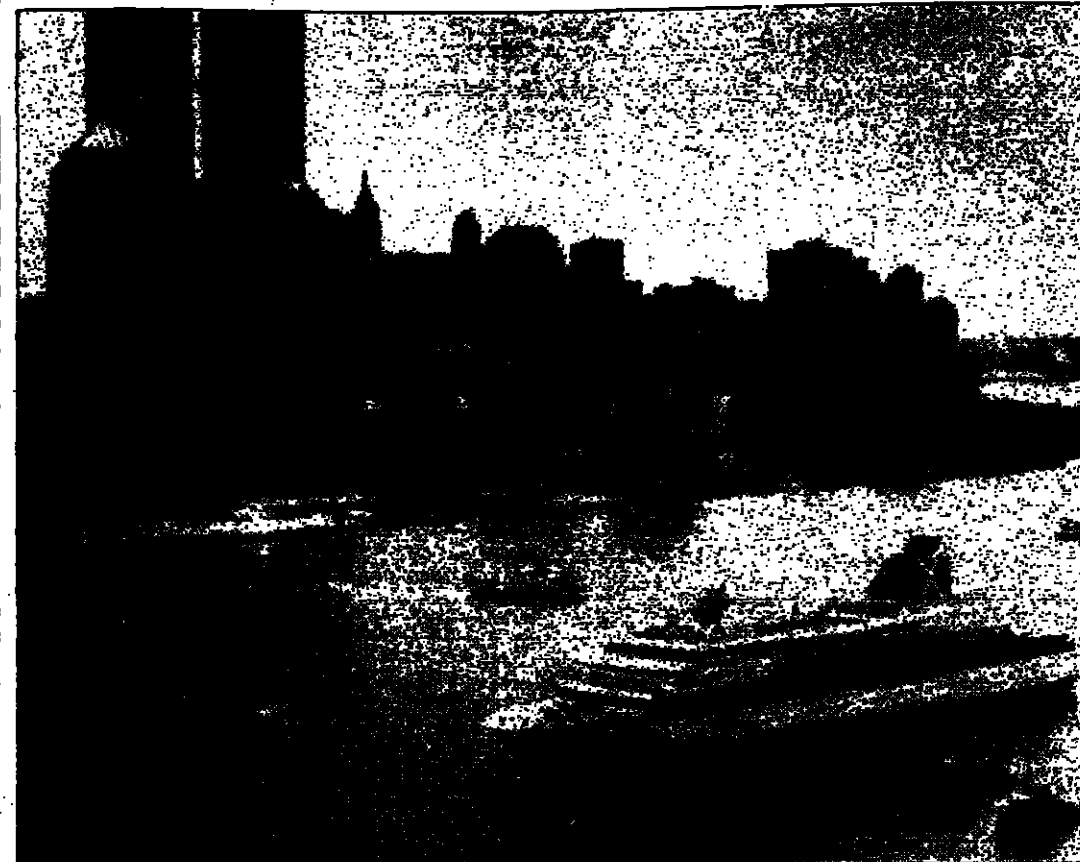
It will also affect those in outlying areas who travel to the relatively well-supplied city to do their shopping.

But Popov said these people would be allowed to buy limited supplies of vital goods in certain stores.

"We will take steps to ensure these people can supply themselves. We must be responsible towards them," he said.

The council delayed the ban because too many people from out of town were already in the city on shopping excursions.

"We decided that it would not be right to do it today. Already buses from other towns are flooding in with people trying to buy goods. We will do it from Monday," said council leader Yuri Luzhkov.



New luxury cruise ship

Several tugboats and other vessels escort the new luxury cruise ship MV Horizon as it enters New York Harbour in this recent photo. The 1,354 passenger ship cost \$185 million to build and is the first vessel ever built in an enclosed shipyard in West Germany. The ship which features two swimming pools and three jacuzzis departed on its inaugural seven-night cruise to Bermuda yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Emirates to step up flights

EMIRATES, the international airline of the UAE, is to step up its flights from Kuwait under its summer schedules which begin in June. The Kuwait-Dubai route will be served daily instead of six times a week. Announcing the new schedules, Sultan Dhiyab, deputy managing director of Emirates, said: "the additional services are being provided to meet the ever-increasing demands of the travelling public."

"Summer is traditionally a very busy period for us and this year we also have the launch of our new routes to Bangkok, Manila and Singapore."

From June 17, Emirates will fly twice-weekly from Dubai to Manila via Bangkok and to Singapore via Colombo. The award-winning airline will operate Airbus A310s on the Far Eastern routes

and, from June 10, will fly the higher-capacity A300-600R aircraft to London on six of the seven services each week, adding around 250 seats in total.

Under the summer schedules, Emirates will increase its Cairo-Dubai flights from four to seven a week. In addition, the airline will introduce three non-stop flights from Dubai to Damascus and three to Amman. At present, both cities are connected by the same flight which operates three times a week.

Emirates is also stepping up its flights to Bombay from 16 to 18 a week. The Bombay route will see a substantial rise in the number of seats with wide-bodied aircraft being used for 13 flights instead of the current ten. The remaining five flights will be by Boeing 727 aircraft.

WANTED

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● A Leading Automotive Dealership is looking for experienced and dynamic Managers for its Sales, Workshop and Spare Parts Divisions.

● Candidates should have at least 5 to 7 years experience in all aspects of management in their respective fields.

● Attractive salary and remuneration package will be offered to successful applicants.

● Please send your complete C.V. and copies of certificates and passport together with a recent photograph to:

Ref: S.M., W.S.M., S.P.M., S.L.M. *

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All applications will be treated in the strictest confidence.

* Please specify the position's Ref. No. on the envelope.

Pakistani engineers' get-together

THE Overseas Pakistani Engineers Forum (Opefor), recently held their annual get-together at the SAS Hotel.

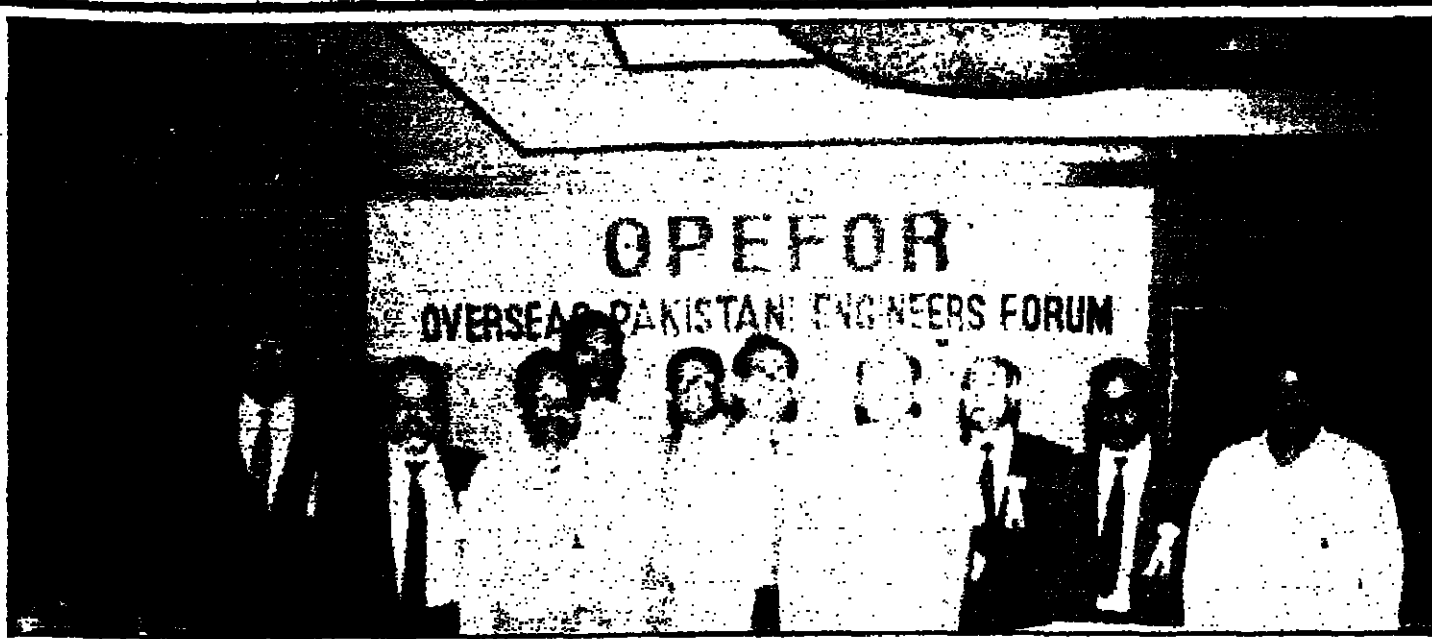
Sana Rahim recited passages from the Holy Quran followed by a religious song by Shaheen Abbas. Opefor President Badar A. Khan spoke about the association; general secretary Mohammad Nuseem Faruqi explained their aims and objectives.

Faruqi also introduced the central executive committee: Khurshed Muzaffar (patron); Agha Manzoor Ali Syed Hamid Sharfuddin; Naseem Haider (vice-president); Wahid Rizvi (treasurer); Abdur Rahim Siddiqui/Hameedullah Khan (secretaries); and Tauseef Ahmed, Ather Masood and Sohail Tahir (joint secretaries).

Pakistani ambassador to Kuwait Zahid Saeed was the chief guest. Also present were Pakistani Consul Manzoor Shafiq, Iqbal Hussain and Rana Afzal.

Seema Faruqi was the MC. Songs, ghazals and humour skits were presented by Tariq Hamid, Moazzam, Anwar Ishaq, Khalid Mahmood, Moin Khan, Sajad Haider and Munir Khan.

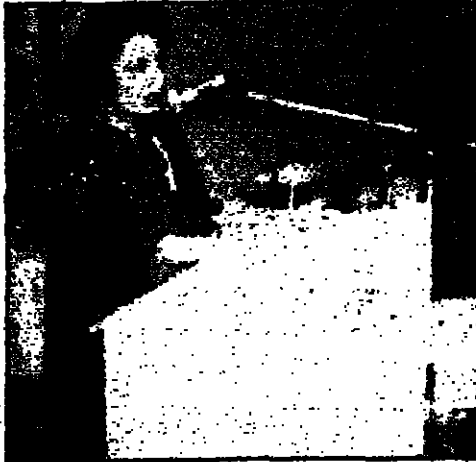
Games for children were conducted by Seema Rahim and Omer Faruqi.



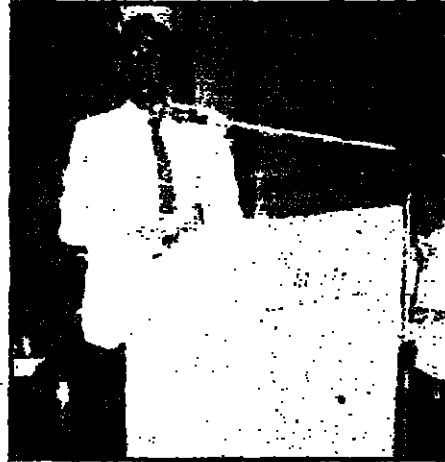
Opefor's executive committee members.



Ambassador Zahid Saeed on the podium.



Seema Faruqi.



Khurshed Muzaffar addressing guests.



PPC committee members of 25th year.

The Pakistan Peoples Club recently re-structured their Nagra and Hawall sub-committees. The nominated office bearers are: Muhammad Iqbal Chohan (president); Aftab Nasir Chohan (vice-president); Sohail Yawar Lokeshwar (general secretary). The committee members are Ali Imran; Mohammad Arif; Ishaq Muhammad; Abdul Haleem; Ali Akbar Wasti; Quasir Zaman and Muhammad Afzal. Above: PPC President M. Afzal Noor pictured with some of the central committee members at a recent meeting.



Oil Minister Sheikh Ali K.A. Al Sabah was recently welcomed at the Kuwait International Hotel by general manager Hermann Simon (above). Also pictured is PR Manager Adnan Saad.



The management of Kuwait Sheraton Hotel recently held a party to celebrate an award. The hotel won the first Chairman's Club Prize for the Sheraton Guest Satisfaction System in the Middle East. Sheraton General Manager Wessel welcomed hotel staff. He also outlined the hotel's future plans and the importance of keeping up standards. Wessel also presented the 1989 President's Award to Awad Abdel Hafez, chief concierge. This award is given annually to any deserving staff member. Above: Wessel (left) pictured with Awad and other hotel staff.

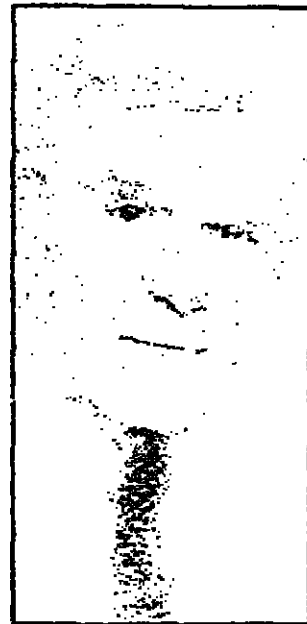
TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.30 Holy Quran
9.40 Good Morning
9.50 Kaola: cartoons
10.10 News Summary
10.15 World News via Satellite (repeat)
10.30 Wajhat Nazar: Arabic serial; part 3
11.25 Cultural film
12.00 Candid Camera: Arabic version
12.30 News summary
12.35 Closedown
Evening
4.00 Holy Quran
4.15 World News via Satellite
4.30 Sally: cartoon serial
5.00 Cartoons
6.00 Ayyam Al Ramad: Arabic serial; ep. 11
7.00 Songs
7.15 Agricultural Magazine: focus on local farming
7.50 Diwanayat Shuara Al Nabt: Nabt poetry gathering
8.30 Good Evening: magazine show
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Al Meerath: Arabic serial, featuring Magdi Wabba, Ahmad Khamis, Ghazwa Labib
12.00 News Summary
12.05 World News via Satellite
12.20 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Beachcombers: "Unlikely Allies 2". Nickie discovers a smugglers gang and asks Relie to help. Will the offenders be brought to justice?
7.00 In the Shadow of Fujisan: Turtles thrive on Japanese territory. Documentary.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Matlock: "The Reunion". A lawyer's murder puts Matlock on the trail of the killers.
9.30 Body Matters: "Against All the Odds". This episode examines organ transplants and why some human bodies reject.
10.00 The Nut House: Sally borrows money to help her mother and finds the money has been stolen. Comedy.
10.30 Best-Seller: "Champane Charlie". Charlie inherits a huge fortune but his uncle threatens to disinherit him. Drama.
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown



Matlock solves another case, tonight on KTV 2



Azzah Labib stars in the Arabic serial Al Meerath, on KTV 1

Please note that Kuwait Television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

BBC highlights

BBC recreates pre-war world

Play of the Week: Who Wrote Horseback Hall?

It is 1916 and a writer now serving in the First World War is recovering from malaria. He recreates the vanished pre-war world of weekend house parties as an anarchic detective story, contrasting that carefree time with the harsh reality of war. This play of the week by Michael Robson was directed by David Spenser and stars John Westbrook, Jill Balcon, Patrick Troughton and John Rye as the writer, Hector Monro.

May 27, 1430 hrs.

Concert Hall

This week BBC World Service brings you a concert of American music, featuring works by Ives, Cowell, Gershwin and Barber.

May 27, 1815 hrs.

The Chinese People Stand Up

Another chance to hear the acclaimed six-part history of the Chinese People's Republic made last year by the BBC Chinese Service, Elizabeth Wright. The series marked the 40th anniversary of the people's republic which took place last June, the same month as the student protest in Peking was put down.

June 1, 1815 hrs. (repeat June 3, 1515)

Talking Issue

Drugs are the subject of this week's edition of the round-table discussion programme. Christopher Cook chairs the programme and challenges his guests to take a wider view, with all preconceptions strictly forbidden.

May 27/28 0530 hrs., 10.30 hrs.

Frequencies: 17.01m; 1891m; 25.51 m

The Dancing Fiddles

Gaelic music at its best, as those fine fiddlers Ron Gonnella and Angus Cameron and the rest of the band entertain audiences in Scotland. The other musicians are George McIlwham on flute and piccolo, Rhona McKay, harp, clarsach and vocals, pianist Walter Blair and Graham Robb on double bass.

(Sats 0130 reg 1115, 2115 GMT)

The Singing Stars

Malcolm Laycock spotlights the great solo singers of the post-war decade, and this month traces the careers of Perry Como, Rosemary Clooney, Bobby Darin and Frankie Laine through the songs they immortalised on record.

We learn how they were discovered, groomed and marketed to become the forerunners of the pop idols of today.

(Fris 2115 reg Sats 0430, Tues 1345 GMT)

Gold draw

The third and last draw of the Indus Valley Basmati Rice was held on May 14 at SAS Hotel's "Al Khaimah." Mohammad Shah Adnan, holder of ticket No. 033385, won half a kilo pure gold. The draw was held under the supervision of Ministry of Commerce representative Mohammad Abdulaziz Al Faraj. A kilo of gold was offered during the Indus Valley promotion, launched by Malek Bros. and Hindustan Lever. Picture shows officials supervising the draw.

WHAT'S ON

Arts

Boushahri Gallery

A MONTH-LONG exhibition of paintings by eight Arab artists is now being held at the Boushahri Gallery, North Salmiya Bldg, Salem Al Mubarak St. The works of such artists as Jaafar Islah, Jafar Kaki, Rashed Diyab, Dia Al Azzawi and Saleh Jamae'ei are on show. Open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm; 4 to 7.30 pm; until month end.

Theatre

IAC One-Act Play Contest

May 30: Madhu and Friends present *Kritiave Nami*; Malayalam; Stage Index perform *Shanti Parvam*, Malayalam.

May 31: Bengali Cultural Society's *Maurich Songbad*; Bengali; IAC badminton team perform *Chanteeran and His Clan*; Malayalam. Natya Bharati present *Kafan* (Shroud); Hindi.

June 1: Award Nite and Entertainment Show, followed by dinner at 7 pm.

All performances at IAC. Funfair; 7.30 pm. For details call 3904817. Entry passes for all performances, including Award Nite are available from IAC.

Kuwait Players
KUWAIT Players present *A Room Full of Foreigners*, a

comedy, nightly at 8 pm from May 28 to 31, both days inclusive, at UAS, Salwa. For reservations call 5321294, 5615357.

Social

LIL
May 28: Monday, 10 am to 12 noon; Ladies International League (LIL) hold Newcomers Meeting; coffee morning; Sheraton Hotel, mezzanine. Ladies of all nationalities welcome. For details call Ann — 531-6905.

Kuwait Players AGM
JUNE 4: Kuwait Players annual general meeting; 8 pm, Al Foz, Messilah Beach Hotel.

PAC membership

THE Pakistan Arts Circle (veterans) have launched a membership campaign. All Pakistanis are welcome. Membership forms available from PAC. For details contact A S Qureshi (5716388); A S Ghazali (5631813); N Khan (4843578); Z Butt (2414570).

June 4: LIL will hold Latino programme; Regency Palace Hotel; 8 pm sharp; doors open: 6 pm, close: 7.45 pm. No one will be allowed to enter after programme begins. Door charge. Extravaganza features performers from Columbia, Bolivia, Argentina and other Latin countries.

Sport

Filchess Chess Tournament

THE Filipino Chess Club, Kuwait, will hold the Inter-Commercial Team Chess Tournament. Teams: four regulars, two stand-bys. Group A: Boards 1/2; Group B: Boards 3/4.

Open to all Filipino chess enthusiasts. Entry forms from Kabayan Restaurant. Last date for entries: May 25. Tournament starts June 1 at Messilah Beach Hotel. For further details contact 2402405.

Competition

Approb Essay Competition

THE Association of Pakistani Professionals and Businessmen holds an essay competition. Essays on "My Role in Building a Better Pakistan" can be submitted by Pakistani students. Open to juniors (12-14); seniors (15-18). Essays of between 1,000 and 1,500 words can be written in English and Urdu.

Send essays to Approb, P.O. Box 2351, Salmiya, 22024, Kuwait. Last date for entries: May 31. For details contact 2425315.

Hotels

At Al Salam
Al Bandar Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch

and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight.

At Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight.

At Gandouli Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food. Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm, ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

At the Holiday Inn

Al Anhad Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisine.

At Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday; Arabic band entertains guests.

Friday Family Lunch: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

At the SAS

Bistretto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music. Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner.

At Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet.

Clock: snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At the Meridian

La Brasserie Restaurant
Wednesday: Indonesian Corner, cuisine prepared in front of you.

Thursday: Jazz Night — jazz music, seafood specialities.

Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet; family day. Versailles: Business lunch and dinner featuring fondue; grilled food.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.18 am
Zuhr	11.45
Asr	3.20 pm
Maghreb	6.40
Isha	8.10

CINEMA

Al Andalus
Hanafi Al Ubbehah (Arabic)

Starring: Adel Imam, Huda Ramzi, Farouk Fishawi

Al Salmiya
Al Raqassah Wal Siyasi (Arabic)

Starring: Nabila Obaid, Salah Qabil

Al Hamra
Hanafi Al Ubbehah (Arabic)

Drive-In
Al Raqassah Wal Siyasi (Arabic)

Al Firdous
Aakhri Baazi (Hindi)

Starring: Govinda, Mandakani

Fahadheel Open Air
Mera Suhaag (Hindi)

Al Fahadheel
Heart Beeps

Al Jahra
Rafao Chakkar (Hindi)

Granada
Sachchai ki Taaqat (Hindi)

Sulabikhat
Rage

Al Jleeb
Kireedam (Malayalam)

Ahmadi Drive-In
Mad Mission V

At the Plaza:

Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu.

Lolouwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks.

Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

At the Messilah Beach
Al Mubarakiyah: open Around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.

Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.

At Berdowneh: BBQ on Thursday in beach-garden restaurant; Lebanese food.

Music

Summer Rock Concert
June 4/5/6: High Spirits and Seventh Sky rock concert; music from Police, Dire Straits, Bon Jovi, Guns 'n' Roses etc.

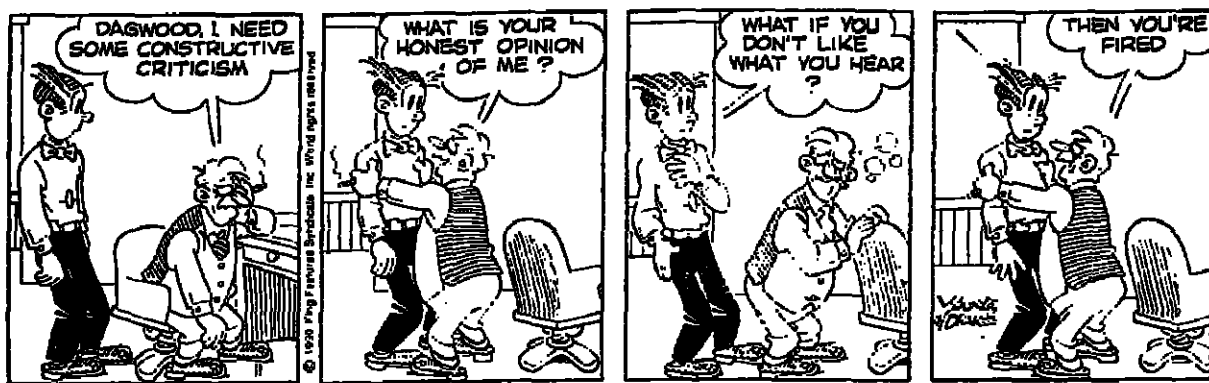
For reservations call 5387998/2563395 after 5 pm.

Lecture

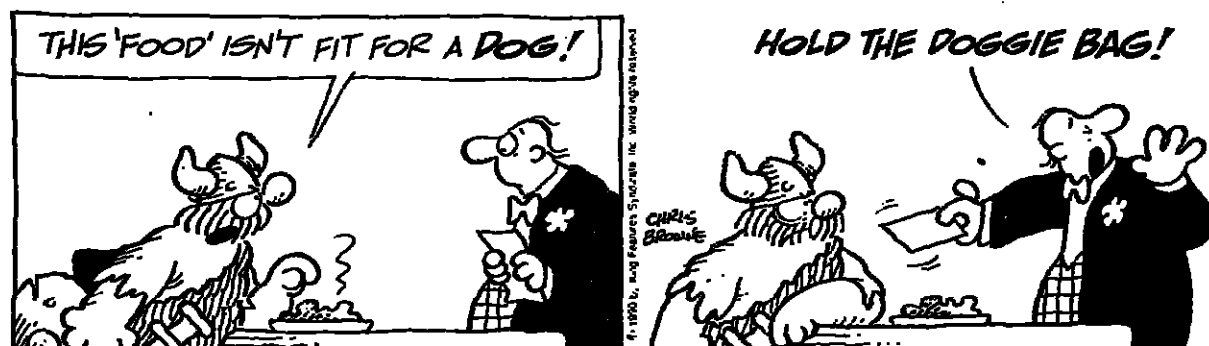
Higher education
MAY 28: 6 pm. Lecture and video show: "Access to your first degree" focus on how to get on a British degree programme.

Open to Kuwaiti, Indian and Pakistani students and parents. At the British Council, Mansouriya. Reserve seats. Tel: 2520067/8/9 and ask for Kate Harries or Elizabeth Locky.

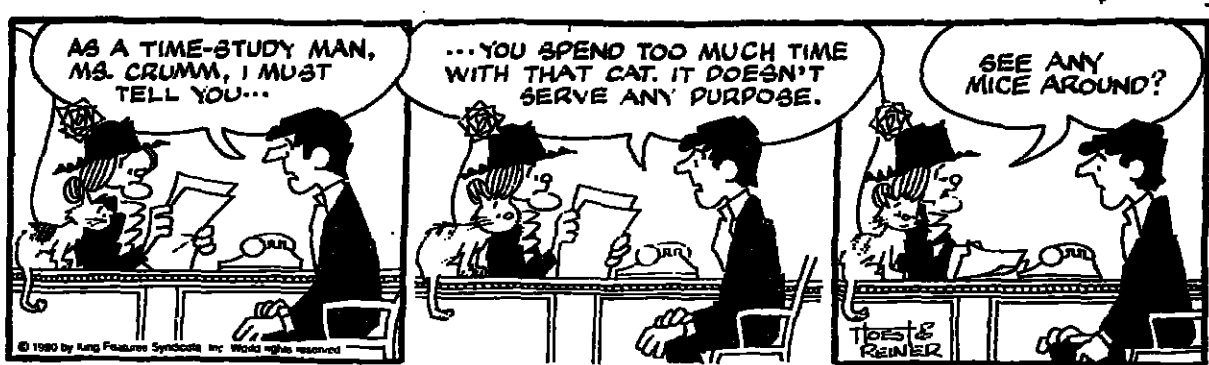
BLONDIE — By Dean Young & Stan Drake



KAGAR THE HORRIBLE — By Dik Browne



CATHY CRUMM — By Bill Hoest



BEETLE BAILEY — By Mort Walker



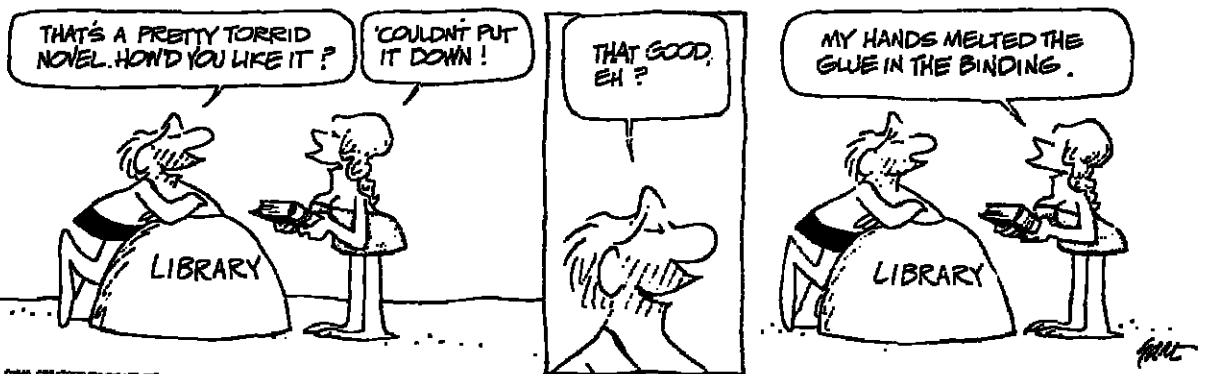
THE WIZARD OF ID — By Grant Parker & Johnny Hart



ANDY CAPP



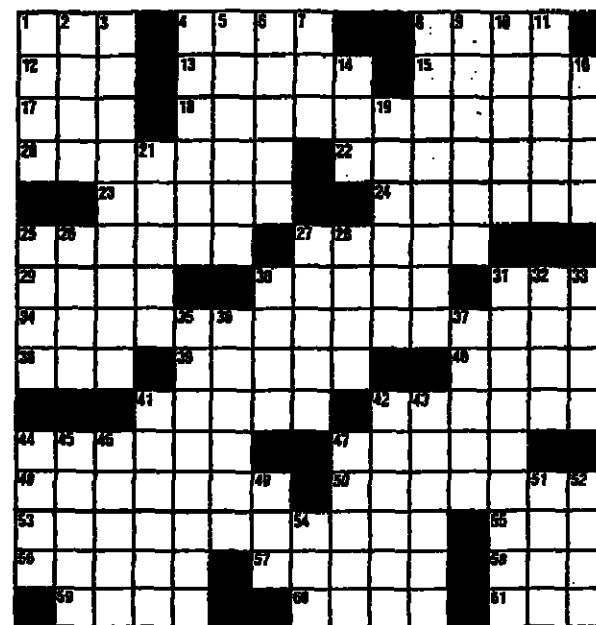
B.C. — By Johnny Hart



HE-MAN — By G. Forton & J. Shull



TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS**
- Aspirant to col.
 - Be outmatched
 - Carbonated
 - liquid: Sp.
 - Important time
 - Encircle
 - Blindstiff
 - Choice shooter
 - Part of New York City's theater scene
 - Balkan country
 - Mouseketeer
 - Unique persons
 - Dexterous
 - Musical's big ending
 - Choir members
 - Midwest title
 - Forerunner to case
 - Pay bribery money
 - Sports strategy
 - Part of GB
 - Verdes
 - Estates, Calif.
 - Cold cuts outlet
 - Actor Richard and kin
 - White poplars
 - Sound from a kennel
 - What Finns speak
 - Elsa's "biographer."
 - Joy
 - Gofers' chores
 - High-speed mover in Japan
 - Palindromic word
 - "...clever beings who were with me": Wilde
 - Kingdom: exchange?
 - Balderdash
 - Gates, of old
- DOWN**
- Regarding
 - Saratoga, for one
 - "I — man who wasn't"
 - Soviet salt lake
 - Carrying on verbal pressure
 - A Barrymore
 - "I don't want to set the world"
 - Chesterfields
 - Tarzan's creator: Inits.
 - Famous
 - Cremona name
 - Part of a bikini
 - Maggie: Var.
 - Ball placement before driving
 - "Cookery is become —"
 - R. Burton
 - Fortune's companion
 - "— Old"
 - Cowhand
 - Works of cartoonist Peter
 - Toppers
 - Bundle of hay
 - Henry
 - Youngman specialties
 - of Man
 - Floral neckpieces
 - Beyond territorial waters
 - Fonteyn of ballet fame
 - 41 Awi's cousin
 - Otologist
 - Island N of Java
 - au rum
 - "...this is — not a sin"
 - J. Wesley
 - Conference city in 1945
 - Chicago's — Tower
 - degree
 - Kick precursor
 - Bristle
 - Acct's entry

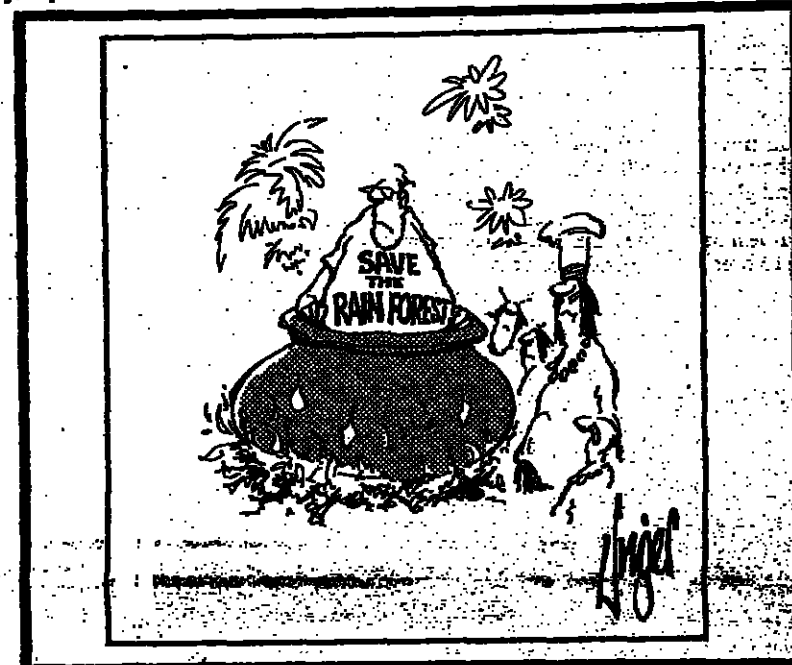
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE:

OMIT GEAR AITA
BACH BADGE AWED
JSEE ARIES RENI
STRAWHATS BOAST
TANGO PAINT
ALTER ERROR SOP
TOUR SINE HUR
HISUTE DESPITE
ORT NIDE URGE
SEL IRONS ELTON
ETIE STULL
HONEY PLUSFOURS
ORES SHADE VIAL
PACT LIVID ELDE
LINKY OLEO RELY

CONEY BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠J762 ♥AKQ63 ♦95 ♣65
Partner opens the bidding with one no trump. What do you respond?
A.—With ruffing values in the minor suits, you should make every effort to find an eight-card fit in a major. Start by bidding two clubs—a request for partner to show a major. Raise any major bid to game; jump to three hearts if partner denies a major by rebidding two diamonds.
- Q.2—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠83 ♥Q65 ♦KQ63 ♣9872
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
3 ♥ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—You don't know partner's distribution—it could be 6-4 or 5-5 or 5-4. The one thing you can't do is bid three no trump with one suit unstopped, and don't raise partner's second suit with only three-card support. Make a waiting bid of three spades to see what he does next.
- Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠AJ103 ♥AK762 ♦AQ95 ♣Void
Partner opens the bidding with one club. What do you respond?
A.—Since you haven't the faintest idea where this hand is going to be played, a jump shift now just consumes space unnecessarily. Start by responding one heart. You can jump-shift next round, if necessary.
- Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠AQJ104 ♥83 ♦KQ10963 ♣Void
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♥ 2 ♠ ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Again, you don't know where you want to play this hand, so don't start with a cue-bid of three clubs—that could get the bidding too high. Be content with a response of two diamonds. Cue-bid only after you've located a trump fit.
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠83 ♥Q65 ♦KQ63 ♣9872
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♣ ?
What do you bid now?
A.—This hand is different—you know where you want to play, but not how high. A strong distributional hand has improved because of the huge fit with partner. Convey the good news by cue-bidding three clubs.
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠A8 ♥KJ1098632 ♦A8 ♣7
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
1 ♥ Pass 2 ♠ ?
What do you bid now?
A.—You have only one strain where you want to play the hand—hearts. Jump to four hearts to convey a one-suited hand of limited strength. With a really good hand, you would have jumped to three hearts.



YOUR STARS



Aries
March 21 - April 20
You must beware of saying anything you do not really mean. If you have made a promise keep it however hard to do so. Do not take everything quite so literally. Be reasonable.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20
A moment's recollection of the past is a moment stolen from the future. And regrets will not improve matters one bit. Your lucky numbers are 10 and 24. Try to rekindle your enthusiasm. Be reliable.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 23
Do not rely on others to guess your meaning, make yourself clear. You will be able to overcome some momentary tension only if you keep calm. Make sure you get enough rest and sufficient exercise too. Be prudent.



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
You should not do anything that is not strictly practical just now. Do not let others tell you what to do but do not expect them to do what you would like them to do either. Have a good laugh at yourself. Be sincere.



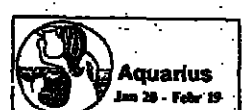
Taurus
April 21 - May 20
You should try to be a little more calm and collected. Make sure you are acting on up to date and accurate information. Do not become involved in what does not really concern you. Be candid.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21
Mistakes are best avoided rather than having to correct them. You should try not to spend too long in company you do not care for. Avoid taking everything quite literally but avoid also being too cynical. Be more patient.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22
You should keep your wits very much about you. Permit common-sense to prevail and do not do anything silly. You will be able to avail yourself of an opportunity to increase harmony with your partner. Be frugal.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19
Do not take too much for granted and do not rely on guesswork. There will be some aspects of the situation you had not counted on and you will have to make allowances. Do not believe all you hear, use a pinch of salt. Be moderate.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20
Something you have been trying to learn will all of a sudden become much easier for you. But do keep trying there is a lot left to learn. Dwell on positive thoughts and dismiss negative ones. Be sensible.



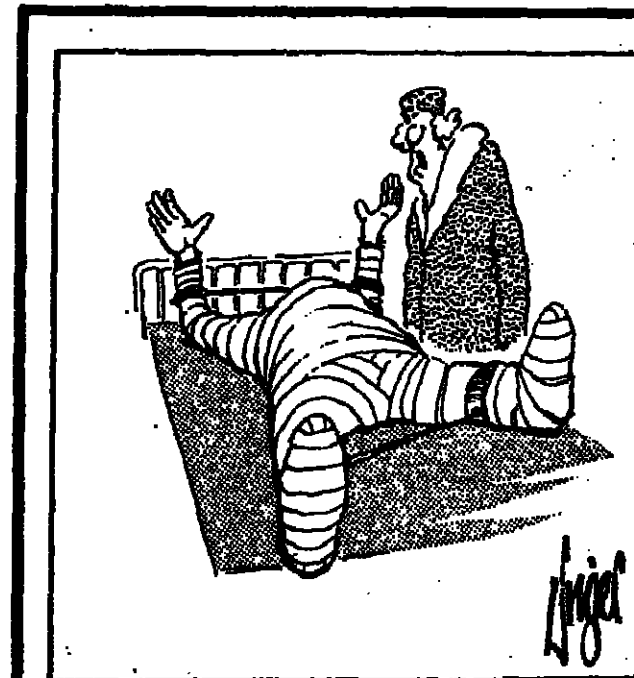
Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
You will meet someone much to your liking but do not entrust him with any confidences just yet. Do not try to do by force something where persuasion has failed to get you anywhere. Take a little better care of your health. Be courteous.



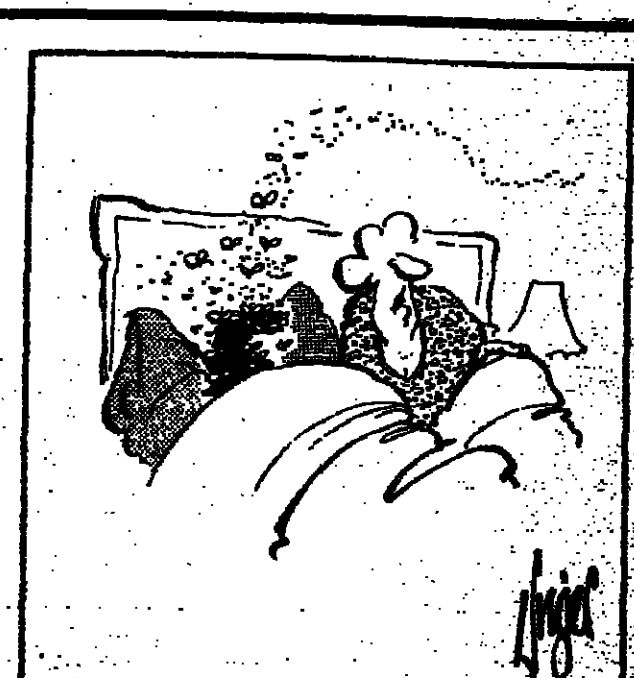
Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
There will be some complications and you should concentrate on sorting them out. Make sure you do not expose yourself to infection and take good care of your personal hygiene. Be fair.



Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You should not allow some small setback to disturb your inner peace of mind. And do persevere, you are on the right track. You will be able to take the initiative, but avoid being rash. Be generous.



"The doctor says you'll still be able to play the piano."



"Do you want me to close the window?"

Alaskan glaciers exploited

Ice harvests cool profits

ANCHORAGE, Alaska, (Reuters): Entrepreneurs have begun exploiting what may be Alaska's most abundant natural resources — ice. Private businesses are collecting chunks of glacier ice to sell as curios to foreigners, especially the Japanese, and as the base for products like vodka and shampoo. There are also those hoping to market it to people concerned about the purity of their drinking water.

Despite protests by environmentalists, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources has granted 11 glacier ice-harvesting permits allowing the collection of up to 5,000 tonnes of ice a week in the waters of Prince William Sound and the Gulf of Alaska.

However, the US National Park Service and environmental groups, concerned that the infant industry will grow uncontrollably, complain that the entrepreneurs are carving away the Alaskan wilderness for the sake of profit.

"To me, there's not an aspect of it that isn't wasteful," said Peter Fitzmaurice, chief ranger for Kenai Fjords National Park, one of the ideal sites for glacier ice harvesting.

"You can make ice cubes in your freezer. It's to me, symbolic of what I see as a bad direction in our development," he said. Many of the ice collection sites are off the shores of Kenai Fjords and Wrangell-St Elias National Parks in southwestern Alaska.

Gary Prokosh, a water resources manager for the Natural Resources Department, said the permits contain restrictions to prevent harm to wildlife or to the state's natural beauty, which attracts increasing numbers of tourists every year.

Harvesting is prohibited in late May and June, when seals swim out of the mist-shrouded Fjord waters to give birth to their pups.

Prokosh said environmentalists' calls for sweeping regulation of the glacier ice business were unwarranted.

"It's a little early for an overall management plan for an industry that we don't even know is going any place," he said.

Until now, the industry had been small. Ice harvesters say no more than 2,000 tonnes a year have been collected commercially in Alaska, although exact amounts are disputed. A tonne is equivalent to a cube measuring about three metres (10 feet) on each side.

So far, most of the lense, blue-green glacier ice has been sold in Japan, according to the Alaska Centre for International Business.

The Japanese craze for it began accidentally with a marketing display in Tokyo in 1987 to promote bottled Alaskan water, said Mark Wilson, president of Weto Inc, a company in Anchorage that sells some seven million dollars' worth of glacier ice and water products annually.

Wilson said his Japanese host was enthralled by the crackling sound the samples of blue-tinted ice made as they melted.

"He referred to it as 'the whisper of the ages,'" Wilson said. "That phrase started a campaign for us in Japan."

Weto began exporting to Japan, where chunks of glacier ice became luxury cubes clinking and popping in cocktail glasses.

Wilson now concentrates on selling products based on glacier ice rather than the ice itself. Weto sells its own brands of bottled glacier water and glacier-based vodka and supplies glacier water to a California firm that makes "glacial shampoo".

Ice harvesters say they are bringing economic development to a state seeking to break its dependence on oil.

One such entrepreneur is Timothy Dimond, who has sold about 1,250 tonnes of glacier ice in the past two years.

"Then good, clean water in this world is fast vanishing. A large percentage of all the fresh water in the world is in glaciers," Dimond said.

They, however, is precisely why National Park service officials and environmentalists, including the Sierra Club and the Wilderness Society, say they want to protect the glaciers.



Exploiting ice has become lucrative business.

FAMILY DOCTOR

By DR ALLAN BRUCKHEIM

MENINGITIS IS NOT HEREDITARY

QUESTION: I often think back to the death of my sister at an early age from meningitis and wonder if the same fate still awaits me. Though I'm no longer a child, I'm concerned that I may soon show this disease. Is it possible that meningitis is an inherited condition?

Answer: Stop worrying. You are never going to suffer from meningitis merely because your sister died of it years ago. Certain forms of meningitis (and there are many) are highly contagious. Historically, there have been dreadful meningitis epidemics, but be assured that it never is a hereditary disease. Different forms of relatively common meningitis can be caused either by viruses or bacteria. The meningitis means an inflammation of the meninges (the three membranes that envelop a person's brain and spinal cord).

Make no mistake about it; meningitis, which occurs in the US mainly during winter, spring and autumn, is always an extremely dangerous and frequently life-threatening infection, as are its possible aftereffects.

The disease is particularly serious and potentially deadly in the very old and the very young, and in patients who have another disease at the time they develop meningitis. Most commonly seen in children under the age of 1, it may be even more serious in adults, especially those over 50 years old, for statistics reveal that when adults contract meningitis, 20 per cent to 70 per cent of them probably will die, even though they may be treated with effective, modern medicine. Therefore, when symptoms of the disease appear, treatment must be initiated as soon as possible.

Even with today's highly developed medical techniques, physicians still experience some difficulty in diagnosing meningitis. On the other hand, medical treatments for the many different types of meningitis are frequently quite effective. Several forms of newly developed, so-called "super antibiotics" or as some call them, the "super anti-infectives", including the third-generation cephalosporins, are administered, usually with impressive cure rates. To be safe, as soon as the disease is suspected, yes, even before diagnosis is complete, many doctors start a patient on antibiotics often as a protective or prophylactic measure. While I never want to frighten anyone, I would be remiss not to tell you that neurological damage may occur in about 20 per cent of all patients that neurological damage may occur in about 20 per cent of all patients who have been cured of meningitis itself. Among the most frequently experienced effects are varying degrees of mental retardation, seizures, and noticeable defects in the ability to hear, taste, smell, as well as other sensory activities.

ADDRESS CORRECTION: In a recent response to a reader seeking information about new cancer therapies, I mentioned a valuable resource for all types of educational material about cancer. Many of you used this address to seek information for your problems as well. However, the National Cancer Institute information office has a new address that I want to pass along to you. It's the PUBLIC INFORMATION CENTRE, Cancer Information Service, National Cancer Institute, Building 31, Room 10A24, 9000 Rockville Pike, Bethesda, Md. 20892.



'Plants and Tree Shapes Before Hills', a 1944 charcoal and watercolour by Graham Sutherland.

Values 'flawed': eco-philosopher Birch

Humanity needs to change perception of creation

By David Clark Scott

SYDNEY, (CSM): Religion's "Nobel Prize" goes to... an ecologist? Charles Birch — an Australian "eco-philosopher" — is co-winner of one of the world's biggest cash prizes: the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion.

To save the planet, says Professor Birch, people's perceptions of God and creation need to change. "There's something wrong about the way we're operating in the world. Industrialisation is despoiling the planet. We're annihilating 1,000 species a year. When you ask what is wrong, it comes down to there's something wrong about our values."

As a maverick biologist, Birch was an early proponent of environmental degradation. His pioneer work, *The Distribution and Abundance of Animals* (with H. G. Andrewartha), outlined in 1954 the implications of unfettered population growth.

"He's one of the two or three most distinguished ecologists in the world," says noted American ecologist Paul Ehrlich of Stanford University. "His first book made me want to call myself an ecologist."

The son of a Methodist minister, Birch also has a less-trumpeted reputation (until now) as a radical Christian theologian. For almost as long as he's been a scientist, Birch has engaged in the "adventurous reflection," as the Templeton announcement puts it, of questions relating to God and biological science.

Stroking a pet cat in his apartment overlooking Sydney harbour, Birch argues humanity's "flawed" values stem from a general view of the Earth as a material stage filled with objects created for man's comfort and advancement.

"Ever since the rise of science in the 17th century, the mode of the universe people have tended to support is a very materialistic mechanical model. The universe is seen as 'an object made in the past, out of material building blocks, now running itself,' with God outside it."

But modern science is starting to see that it can't reproduce our world with a building-block model, says Birch. "There's something mental in existence... in life which we let slip through our fingers in the past. From protons to people, you have to look at them more as subjects rather than objects. Then you can see much more easily the relationship of God, not just to human beings, but to all of creation."

This perspective gives all life forms, not mankind alone, inherent worth. And while Birch welcomes the recent upsurge in public awareness of environmental issues, he chastens conservationists for con-

tinuing to campaign on the anthropocentric ethic: "Look after nature, then nature will look after us."

"I want them to be concerned for animals whether or not they're useful to us. They are subjects, not just objects," says Birch.

"The \$54,000 question is: Where did subjectivity begin in the whole of cosmic evolution? Most biologists would say, 'Oh, somewhere below mammals. Birds, maybe. Certainly not frogs...' There's a big problem in that approach, because you're saying mind and consciousness and all the characteristics of life have come out of something which is totally non-living, totally non-mental. The alternative approach is to say in some form or another the mental or the sentiment was right there from the beginning. That's a different perspective."

"I don't like the word 'power'. It immediately suggests God as the manipulator who could have intervened to stop the holocaust," God, says Birch, isn't a mechanic. Rather, God is "persuasive love. Love that persuades creation to become what it can be. But the paradox is, there's power in love. And in the end, the only power that matters is love."

Based on Birch's beliefs, solving the environmental problem requires a set of values, reflected in political and economic systems, that acknowledge the worth of all beings. Christian churches have been lax in expounding these values, he says. "The advocacy of Western religious thought is most weak precisely here, where the ache of the world is most strong," writes Birch in a recent article.

Birch is entitled to spend his half of the \$535,000 Templeton prize, announced in March, in any manner he wishes. But recently retired from the University of Sydney, he makes a comfortable living as an author. His latest book, *"On Purpose"*, exploring questions about God's purpose and directions for today's society, is due out in Australia shortly (No US publisher has been found yet).

Birch plans to give the prize money away. A big chunk will go to the Claremont School of Theology in California. He credits "Process Theology," as espoused by the school's dean, John B. Cobb, with shaping his ideas. Another handout will go to a newly formed Geneva-based group working on Christian social and environmental ethics in Eastern Europe. And Birch wants to fund an annual lecture on human aspects of science and technology at the University of Sydney.

Birch shares the prize with lawyer Murlidhar Devidas Amte, who was recognised for work with the poor and lepers in India. The prize was established in 1972 by international investment manager John Templeton. Past winners include Mother Teresa, the Rev. Billy Graham, and novelist Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn.



Australian eco-philosopher Charles Birch, co-winner of the Templeton Prize for Progress in Religion, feels that people's flawed values stem from materialism.

Sutherland's art retains traumas of tortuous form, and rich evocative mood

By Christopher Andreae

MANCHESTER, England, (CSM): Two works brought the British artist Graham Sutherland (1903-1980) a particular fame with his fellow countrymen. One was his design for a tapestry in Coventry Cathedral — the new cathedral built after the bombing of the older structure in World War II. For this, Sutherland produced a monumental, hieratic figure of "Christ in Glory." It is noteworthy as an unusual example of a serious modern artist attempting an ecclesiastical commission.

The other was his portrait of Winston Churchill. This — a strong evocation of Churchill's appearance and character — was immediately and furiously disliked by its subject. Kept by Churchill, after its initial showing, hidden from the public, it was eventually destroyed.

Looking at the images Sutherland produced in the early part of his career, nobody could possibly have guessed at such notable later events.

At the outset he was an etcher and engraver, a maker of small, rural, and poetic black and white prints, full of a rather mysterious sense of strange places. He was in fact looking back to the etchings and sepia drawings of the 19th century artist Samuel Palmer.

To him, Palmer's pastoral landscapes, informed with a vivid affection for traditional religion, and a love of rather unusual natural details, had been a revelation. The "real" world was transformed by Palmer's feeling and imagination — and his style as an etcher, working all over the plate to achieve intense black tones and a kind of sparkling, twilight luminosity, ran contrary to Sutherland's training and appealed to him greatly.

Of himself and other engraving students at Goldsmith's College School of Art in London, Sutherland wrote: "As we became familiar with Palmer's later etchings, we 'bit' our plates deeper." (In etching the artist uses acid to "bite" lines into a copper or zinc plate. The ink from which the print is made is dabbed or pressed into the etched lines.) "We had always been warned against 'overbiting.' But we did 'overbite'... quite unrepentant at the way we punished and maltreated the copper."

This resulted in prints heavy with a close network of ink lines — an accumulated density of blackness — which Ronald Alley has characterised as "a dark, rich texture which suggests a kind of pulsation, as though the whole of nature was throbbing with inner life."

Paradoxically, Palmer, the consciously old-fashioned son of the previous century, had offered Sutherland a means of rebellion. He was a sort of English Van Gogh in Sutherland's eyes.

But the traumas — and the art — of Sutherland's own century eventually invaded this strongly felt, but somewhat cosy, visionary world. Also, Sutherland's character was far too troubled, far too impressed by the fearsome and the cruel in nature and humanity, for him to go on making art out of the woodlands and cottages of Kent.

The fecundity and essential goodness of the earth, of the fields and trees, which was rooted in Palmer's visions — his pictures are earthly hints of Paradise — was never really Sutherland's. A dryness and sourness, an awareness of nature's weirdness, and hints of some underlying malevolence creep into his etchings.

He turned to designing — posters and pottery among other things — but, more importantly, Sutherland took up painting, and he and his wife discovered an unfamiliar landscape — in the Welsh county of Pembrokeshire — that provided him with just the kind of atmosphere and motifs that he needed. This was in 1934.

In a letter to a friend, Sutherland described eloquently some aspects of this Welsh landscape that came to preoccupy him for many years. Of one special discovery, a cove and beach by the banks of a narrow estuary which they found, he wrote: "I wish I could give you some idea of the exultant strangeness of this place. — for strange it certainly is, many people whom I know hate it, and I cannot but admit that it possesses an element of disquiet. The left bank as we see it is all dark — and impenetrable damp green gloom of woods which run down to the edge of low blackish moss-covered cliffs — it is all dark, save where the mossy lanes (two each side) which dive down to the opening, admit the sun, hinged, as it were, to the top of the trees, from where its rays, precipitating new colours, turn the red cliffs of the right-hand bank to tones of fire. Do you remember the rocks in Blake's 'Newton' drawing? The form and scale of the rocks here, and the minutiae on them, is very similar."

"The whole setting is one of exuberance — of darkness and light — of decay and life..."

"The right bank has fields above the cliffs, some covered with rip corn, others with gorse-clad pas-

ture... Cattle crouch among the dark gorse... It is no uncommon sight to see a horse's skull or horns of cattle lying bleached in the sand. Neither do we feel that the black-green ribs of half-buried wrecks and the phantom tree roots, bleached and washed by the waves, exist but to emphasise the extraordinary completeness of the scene."

The cadence and rather archaic-sounding construction of Sutherland's prose shows how he was influenced not only by Samuel Palmer's pictures, but by his writings. All the same, as he gradually found himself, and produced works which are indelibly his own — like the charcoal and water-colour "Plants and Tree Shapes before Hills" of 1944 — many of Palmer's attitudes continued to contribute to his work.

In the Welsh landscape, for instance, he didn't just sit down in it and paint it. Like Palmer he was more intent on bringing into play in his art the potency of memory and imagination. He walked a lot. Palmer did that in Kent as a young man, and dreamed as well. Sutherland made quick notes and drawings. But his paintings were the work of his imagination bringing his encounters with nature into the realm of line and paint, light and colour and form.

In the letter quoted above, he also remarked that he learned that "landscape was not necessarily scenic, but that its part have an individual figurative detachment." This, in fact, a description of the elements of his paintings in the 1930s and '40s. His identification with natural forms in the landscape caused him to see them as visual metaphors for the animal or human.

In the picture shown here, for instance, the foreground shape of an abandoned and worn part of some tree, twisted and hollowed, is like a skull. It brings to mind the skulls painted by Georgia O'Keeffe in New Mexico, enlarged and isolated in close-up, as if almost stumbled over the ground, and through and beyond them the land and sky.

This painting also brings to mind sculptures in the '30s and '40s in Britain, works by Henry Moore or Barbara Hepworth, in which they discovered the exciting effect of carving their block of wood or stone right to the other side. Moore was inspired by natural objects like bones and flints that he picked up and took home to his studio. So, too, was Sutherland. In fact the sculptural quality of much of Sutherland's painting, his thick, loose black lines curving around some intricately odd forms as a sculptor's chisel would carve it, can hardly be over-emphasised.

Colour is a crucial aspect of Sutherland's imagery, and it was often at this period of colour of the setting sun — flame, orange, crimson — with intense shadows. He once described the mood of a landscape he saw as being the visual equivalent of the clangour of church bells. His colour, likewise, is not in gentle harmonies, it is dissonant and often clashing. But it is often potent in effect, and redeems what might otherwise be a completely bleak view of nature with a kind of bracing, surprising warmth.

After time spent as an official "war artist" during World War II, when Sutherland made some impressive pictures of bomb damage and of miners and mines, Sutherland's development tended away from landscape painting as such. His sense of religion seems to have come close to a kind of despair, and he painted a crucifixion which brings together the horrific imagery of Gernsheim and Belsen with little suggestion of subsequent resurrection. His tapestry design for Coventry Cathedral evinces more of the man of sorrows than the glorified. This still figure to represent Christ has solemnity and some authority, but not much love.

In his attempts at a modern church art Sutherland seems to have become obsessed, for a period, with one landscape detail. That was thorns, and as if piercing cruelty might be the only thing that could give expressive effect to his images.

One of the few artists to have fallen under the direct influence of Picasso without being swamped by him, Sutherland might be accused, as Picasso has sometimes been, of abandoning the semblance of redeeming humanness in his art. And yet he continued to paint and to renew his ideas, however savage they might be.

Much of Sutherland's later work settles for a kind of bitter theatricality, in which dislike of the world seems to predominate. It becomes husk and shell, beast and insect, thorn without rose. If he makes "art" from this withering, hard outlook, it is done by calculated will rather than inspiration. The effect is a fierce sort of symbolism, but not much meaning.

"Plants and Tree Shapes before Hills" was painted toward the end of World War II, yet it retains the artist's characteristic mixture of tortuous form and rich, evocative mood. Something of Samuel Palmer's love of nature's whole and rounded manifestation persists in it. The war had not killed that.

The show no longer goes on in West End

By Matt Wolf

LONDON, (AP): In a city where the show usually goes on regardless, the West End theatre has been hosting an unusual number of short-lived flops.

The latest casualties are "King," a musical based on the life of the slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr, and "A Clockwork Orange," inspired by the Anthony Burgess novel. Both will close June 2 with a combined loss of more than £3 million (\$3 million).

"It comes as no surprise that the two... are taking an early bath," wrote critic Jack Tinker in the Daily Mail. "Both shows have taken a most exciting subject and driven in to the ground."

Producers blamed poor attendance and bad reviews, although critics in London are generally much less influential than in New York.

A spokesman for "King" called the reviews "unseasonably damaging."

These closing follow the premature demise this month of such diverse West End entries as "Never the Sinner," John Logan's play about the Leopold and Loeb murder case in 1920's Chicago; "Look Look," Michael Frayn's first new play since "Benefactors" in 1984; and "Bus Stop," a revival of the William Inge play, starring model Jerry Hall.

The musical "Someone Like You," with Petula Clark, shut on a Thursday afternoon, April 26, after a scant five weeks when producer Harold Fielding was forced into liquidation.

Normally, London shows must announce their closings a minimum of two weeks before the final

performance. The sort of overnight death knells so prevalent on Broadway rarely happen here.

The fate of "Look Look," which closed May 12 after a monthlong run, was a particular surprise. Frayn is one of Britain's most respected dramatists. Its star was Stephen Fry, a popular local TV personality.

But in an interview with London's Sunday Express, Frayn said he understood the critical reaction. "I actually feel embarrassed for the critics," said of the comedy, which lost its 250,000-pc (420,000-dollar) outlay.

"I don't think the play failed because it is intelligent, but because it isn't intelligent enough," he said.

Clare Fox, producer of "Never the Sinner," said her show was bedeviled by such English anomalies as a heat wave and a riot.

"We did open in the middle of a riot, which is very un-British, as you know," said Fox. Referring to the anti-tax demonstration on March 31, which filled much of the theatre district with rampaging protesters, she said, "I think it frightened people; everybody's box office dropped away."

Fox said "Never the Sinner" was playing to 25-percent capacity, half the break-even figure. It cost £190,000 (about \$320,000).

So far, 1990 has fielded only two substantial commercial hits. Peter Ustinov's one-man show, which was extended one month at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, and Alan Ayckbourn's new play, "Man of the Moment."



Picture shows: Alindogan and Kho, right, and guns and ammunition

Liz Alindogan lover nabbed: An agent of the Economic Intelligence and Investigation Bureau (EIIB), said to be movie actress Liz Alindogan's lover was arrested by NBI agents in his house in Paranaque for alleged possession of high-powered firearms, ammunition and communications equipment.

Benjamin Yap Kho, 40, was with Alindogan when the lawmen raided his house at 6 am.

NBI agents led by special task force chief senior agent vice Basilio Alindogan and his wife, Alindogan, were armed with rifles, handguns, grenades, bullets and communications equipment in Kho's house.

The raid was made with a search warrant issued by Paranaque Judge Roberto Makalintal.

Kho will be charged with illegal possession of firearms. Alindogan and two others identified as Antonio Jimiriano and Andres Dactan are still undergoing investigation.

EIIB Commissioner Jose Almonte said Kho's house is their safe-house. He denied that the guns would be used in another coup attempt. Almonte said the guns were intended to be used against smugglers or persons seeking to overthrow the government. He said the guns were covered with permits.

Trader, driver shot: A businessman and his driver were shot by four suspected New People's Army (NPA) hit men on Gen T. de Leon St., Valenzuela. Shot was Rogelio Estrella, 25, manager of R&R Metal Casting in Valenzuela and resident of Blk 6 Jordan Ville Homes, Baesa, Quezon City, and Dante Daquiz, 50, also of Quezon City.

Investigators found several .45 shells and slugs apparently used by the suspects who escaped in a tricycle towards Sta. Quiteria, Caloocan City.

Investigators Pfc. Virgilio Villano and Pat Arnold Alabastro found that the shooting happened in front of Wilborocand Co., along Gen. T. de Leon St. at about 7.45 am.

Estrella and Daquiz, riding a blue Galant, were about to turn right when the four men approached and fired at them.

Although wounded, Estrella managed to pull out Daquiz from the steering wheel and himself drove the car to barangay Mapulang-lupa, some ten metres away from the crime scene.

"Astintado ang isang suspect dahil tinamaan ang gulong ng kotse," a witness told investigators.

Valenzuela police chief Maj. Carlos Tiquia said the tricycle used by the suspects in escaping was later found abandoned in Balintawa, Quezon City.

Hired killers kill Rizal housewife: A housewife was stabbed to death by two men believed to be hired killers who also shot her husband in their house in Taytay, Rizal yesterday.

Catalina Pagaduan, 55, died from 12 stab wounds in different parts of the body. Her husband Fernando, 75, was rushed to the Angono General Hospital with a bullet wound in the chest.

Police said Fernando was awakened by barking of dogs. When he peeped through a window, one of the men shot him.

The two men rushed inside the house and stabbed Catalina who was helping her bloodied husband, police said.

The killers escaped.

Police discounted robbery was the motive and theorized that the attack on the couple may have something to do with a land dispute.

Probe school mess, House: The House committee on education yesterday asked Education Secretary Isidro Carino to investigate anomalies allegedly committed by Eulogio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology (Earist) president Lydia Profeta.

Committee Chairman Rep. Carlos Padilla in his endorsement letter to the education secretary said the complaints of teachers and students against Profeta merit attention as the school is a government subsidised institution.

Profeta is accused of buying computers, appliances and medical instruments, using Earist funds, for her personal use. She also reportedly authorised the procurement of 30 computers for the school worth P555,000 without public bidding.

Earist Faculty of Employees Union spokesperson Alvin Asuncion said they were questioning Profeta's extension of appointment as Earist president because of her age. She is 67 years old.

Found dead: A 13-year-old girl and four other people were found dead in separate places in Bulacan.

A PC report said all the victims had been stabbed in the neck and strangled.

The bodies of the girl, a woman and a man were spotted by motorists near the expressway in barangay Lawa, Maricao.

The two other corpses were both wearing denim pants and white T-shirts and were between 25 and 30.

They were discovered in Pullian town.

Fishmeal factory ordered closed: A fishmeal factory in Maricao has been ordered closed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) for water and air pollution.

DENR ruled that the Aim fishmeal factory in barangay Sta. Maricao, has exceeded "allowable standards set by the Department of Adjudication Board (PAB) following water sampling last April."

Bulacan woman robbed: Five men in camouflage pants and T-shirts robbed a businesswoman of cash and jewellery totalling P20,000 Thursday night in barangay Tabang, Guiguinto, Bulacan.

Victim Norma Martinez, 35, told police the men broke into her home at 9 pm and herded them into the bathroom with armalites, shotguns and a revolver.

The suspects ransacked all the rooms for more than an hour before fleeing, Martinez said.

'Robber' shot dead: A suspected robber was killed in a shootout with PC soldiers in barangay Mambog, Bacoor, Cavite.

Killed on the spot with several gunshot wounds in the body was Rannie Aguillar, 29, of Bacoor, Cavite, said 233rd PC commanding officer Capt. Bernie Bondoc.

The suspect, Bondoc said, shot it would with a team of PC troopers led by T/Sgt Jack Gutierrez.

The soldiers cornered Aguillar in his house at about 8 pm but he refused to give up.

Investigating with Cheche Lazaro

"THANK God it's Friday" may generally be a sigh of relief for a working week just over, the prospect of a two-day respite and late night-out for tired minds and bodies. But for the discriminating televiewer, it may also be an expression of anticipation for a date with *The Probe Team*, Channel 7's well-balanced investigative programme that tells the stories behind the limited scope of newspaper headlines.

At the helm of *The Probe Team* is Cheche Lazaro, a broadcast journalist whose screen presence spells authority and a remarkable aura of sincere, responsible and efficient journalism. Cheche retains all that in person — the widow's peak, the Oriental-patrician looks made more inspiring by the straightforward charm and undisguised femininity. The relaxed poise belies the 365-day — 20-hour energy that mobilizes her roles as chairperson of the Broadcast Department of UP College of Mass Communication, professor, student for her Ph.D., and television producer and broadcaster. But on top of the heap is *The Probe Team*. It's a consuming passion, she says. "We took *Probe* as a challenge to make the show commercially viable, interesting and entertaining to our viewers. Personally, I was challenged to prove a lot of people wrong — those who thought that in investigative news magazine-programme is too heavy for televiewers to understand and patronize, hence a pit of mud to advertisers. So I said, let's see if we can buck the tide. Let's see if we can change all these perceptions. And that's exactly what we did."

Probe's proof at hand
What started as a challenge, as the cliché goes, is the *Probe* today, a commercial and critical success.

Thank God it is, the lady must be thinking considering that the first year was tough. "It was, in terms of getting public and station support, that was expected since we aren't like an entertainment programme that people look for. We were trailblazers in the sense that investigative reporting, though not a new concept and neither quite original, was new on local television. It was then a matter of proving a point that something people thought won't work, in fact, works."

Indeed, it works and now the lady herself is surprised. "I never doubted *Probe's* success and even now I'm no big deal when people tell me they watch it and that the programme is nice. But when people come up and say it's their favourite show and even cite episodes to prove their point, then I get very elated."

Televiewer support is no less positively reflected by the ads that now fill up the slots. Yet the recognition given the show by prestigious award giving bodies makes the lady proud no less. "We were not really expecting awards. Yet, we were recognised by the Gawad-CCIP last year. It was good, naturally, but we thought that was just about it. Imagine my surprise then when for the first time we got this recognition abroad."

Cheche, of course, is talking about the *New York International Film and Television Festival*, antiques enough, they'd simply write us and say 'thank you for sending your entry' and stuff like that and that was all. "But it didn't turn out that simple. 'Congratulations. You had been elected finalist' was what the message said. 'So we were invited to go to New York to receive a plaque that shows we were indeed finalist'."

"As I have said, we really don't expect awards. When international gathering of all television shows all over the world. The body chooses from a field of 11,000 entries picking shows that are given finalist and gold medal status. Last year *The Probe Team* emerged as the only pick from a Third World country and one of the only three in Asia which included Hong Kong and Japan."

"We were shocked," Cheche enthuses. "We were finalist in the news magazine category and that was something we didn't expect at all. We hear our colleagues in the industry say that *Probe* is a good show, that it's good, balanced and factual... these awards in itself. All these are compliments we're extremely proud of. We don't take any of them for granted."

Anybody who watches *The Probe Team* should know that among other things, the topics often are controversial. "That's incidental," Cheche says. "We don't do a story because it's controversial. We do it because, first, it's interesting to a large number of people, then it will be something that people will have a stake in. That is the first parameter. If it happens to be controversial, it is probably because we look at all the sides of the issue. We make everybody air his side. We don't confine it one place and one source. That's the lazy way. Instead, we get one party to talk about his side and then get another one to air his, plus possibly a third and fourth. That's the only way we can come up with a well rounded story."

The weekly choice of topics is difficult. Nevertheless, Cheche and her team are given a free hand by the station (Channel 7) which she acknowledges as very supportive. "No questions not



signs of apprehension form them as far as our choice of topics is concerned. I appreciate that."

An hour of *Probe* on television may be a smooth, continuous probing of the headlines. Yet the "easy" impression the viewer gets just doesn't illustrate the efforts that go with each episode. "We hold editorial meetings every Monday where we discuss possible stories, and suggestions. People suggest stories to us based on our own readings of dailies plus what people tell us would be good stories. That entails constant brainstorming."

In spite of the preparations, the efforts to consistently come up with an unbiased, well-balanced presentation, an investigative format like *Probe's* inevitably can't please everybody. Televiewers may be unanimous in praises but some people involved in a controversial story itself don't always nod their heads in agreement as far as the presentation of a particular side is concerned. "Part of the game," Cheche states. "We've been taken to court. Once by a group of aquarium fish exporters. They sued us claiming that because of a story we did, they lost business in Japan and the United States. Moreover, they accused us of doing other things which allegedly affected their business negatively. We won the

case. Of course, it's now on appeal but we won the case which I never doubted though we did spend a quite a number of days' and weeks preparing for the case."

One gets curious how a lady like Cheche Lazaro reacts to an attack to her and the show's credibility. Maria Ressa, director of *Probe*, general manager of Probe Productions, and as Cheche describes her, "the brain behind the show, who conceptualises all there is to it," knows quite well. "She was furious," she says of her producer upon learning about the case.

"I was more irritated by the fact that our integrity was being attacked," Cheche explains. They were expectedly normal as that of a mother whose child has been threatened. So was the attack which was likewise expected when a programme of *Probe's* format gets too effective for some people's comfort. Apparently, the lady considers it as such and the triumph over her court adversary. If such a feeling still lingers, pales in comparison to the pride that surfaces when she sums up the programme's success:

"We started *Probe* because we wanted to do a show that would enlarge the bits of information we get from newspapers. What we read in them, all these inves-

tigative reports about anomalies, scandals and all those stuff gave me the idea that if newspapers have it, why not television which can showcase all these with it being a visual medium. So that's what we did. We present *Probe* is a way that is very understandable for even the ordinary viewer. Without reading the papers one would get the information on TV perhaps with even more satisfaction and understanding. That, in fact, is our objective."

Mother, wife and Filipino women

Typical of a successful career woman, Cheche has to find ways dividing her time between career and family. She is doing fine but she admits it is with great difficulty. "As compared to the past, it has become a bit easier now with *Probe* having developed a regular schedule. We now have some kind of routine. Still, it's television. It's erratic and not very stable. Sometimes you have tapings that start very early in the morning and end very late at night. And then often, you go out of town several days or sometimes leave in the morning and come back very late. That is quite difficult for family life."

Fortunately, her family has been very supportive of her career, the hectic schedules notwithstanding. "That is, in fact, my number one asset," she proudly says. "My husband, for one, has no objections to what I'm doing. On the contrary, he encourages me. He reminds me — gently enough — once in a while, that my two growing children, a 20-year-old girl and a 14-year-old boy are in need of mother's attention, too, that I should spend time with them. Of course, I try to make a conscious effort to do something about it."

If Cheche has managed beautiful in her professional and family life, she gives part of the credit to her being a Filipino woman who she holds in high esteem. "I think the Filipina has a pre-eminent status in this country. Unfortunately, not all of them can say that for themselves. There are those who are still burdened by all these stereotypical ideas of what a woman should be. Things like she being at home and serving the man, she being never aggressive lest she be viewed as non-Filipino. I think she is wrong. I believe that the Filipino woman is capable of and has tremendous potential which she can make use of and these stereotypical ideas of what she is pulling her down. Otherwise she is equal if not better than her male counterpart."

"Personally, I've never looked at my sex as a hindrance. I've been told repeatedly that being a female in a predominantly male world of television can be a

liability. I've never fallen for that simply because I've always thought of myself as a competent person. In fact, some people might even use the word intimidating. But I've always thought of myself as simply trying my best in my chosen profession. Neither has my nationality posed any problem for me. It may complicate things a bit due to the typical expectations a lot of people hold for the Filipina, but I'm extremely proud of it. I am a Filipino first and I consider that an asset. Being a Filipino woman then makes it a double asset."

Probe once more
A programme like *Probe*, its challenges, success and consequences can change a person's life. Even a lady like Cheche Lazaro admits *Probe* has changed her. "For the better, or though," she says. "Now I have this greater awareness of my responsibility as a broadcaster. We've always said many things about the broadcaster's responsibility. But most of the time you simply mouthed them. Now, I feel the burden of that responsibility. Because we are successful, because people watch us, because people consider us, to some extent, to be leaders in this field, there is a burden of responsibility that we must undertake. We must use our craft to its greatest good, and then spread it. Not in terms of propaganda but in terms of presenting stories in the most balanced way possible. You have to handle that well. If you don't then you are misusing government funds and that's like engaging in corruption or like mismanaging your children or destroying your environment. You just have to handle it well or you'll turn a very good tool into a destructive one."

The future
Probe success has enabled Cheche Lazaro to venture into an expansion plan adding people on the staff and taking on new projects like *BizNews*, a programme "about business which may be televised on Channel 4 within the next three weeks. Then there are the special projects like the one in collaboration with Caltex and DOST which is a once-a-year thing. Aside from *Probe* as a regular show, there is *Taka Taka Man*, a tele-marketing show aired every Monday at seven in the morning and *Channel 9*, another first of its kind in local television."

There seems to be a very promising future for the *Probe Team*. The glow on Cheche Lazaro's face confirms that. Her female grit and competence plus the other intangibles that make her what she is, meanwhile, guarantees more.

Money talk

MR ALLEGRE, impeccably attired in a suit of deep blue, entered the room. He was followed by a petite uniformed maid carrying a tray. She set an enormous breakfast beside Lyn, then quickly retired, closing the door behind her.

Lyn was too nervous to eat. She drank coffee and nibbled on a pastry as Mr Alegre graciously asked if she would mind. If he had anything momentous to tell her, he was certainly saving it.

Feeling that she should be relieved, Lyn was irritated, but when Mr Alegre graciously asked if she would mind taking some dictation, she smiled sweetly and went to work. An hour of this and Mr. Alegre glanced at his watch. It was late August and he would not be using the house again until next summer holidays. There were certain instructions concerning the closing and maintenance of the place which he had to give the help.

Would Lyn like to come along, continuing her dictation enroute? She would.

When they were about to leave, Mr Alegre asked if she would care to look around the penthouse. Ask if walking on clouds they moved over whisper-soft carpets through a living room large enough to swallow two apartments like her own. They drifted down softly illuminated hallways, glancing into spacious silky-lush bedrooms four of them, all in unique shapes, each with its own lovely decor. Four bedrooms — and five baths! A handsome dining room, the study, a large kitchen, servants' quarters, a garden terrace, with every piece of furniture exquisite, while throughout there was a pleasant, muted atmosphere, an air-conditioned silence which excluded the whole dreary world of toil below.

Marvelous, marvelous! thought Lyn, but she said little because Mr Alegre was so indifferent that she did not want to seem stupidly unsophisticated.

The day was sticky-hot, but in the air-conditioned limousine it was cool and serene. Like magic, a tiny bar appeared and Mr Alegre produced chilled, ready-made cocktails. Sipping, he spoke carelessly of his winter home in Florida, showing Lyn a snapshot, moving on to other subjects, such as his cruise around the Pacific, stopping at such exotic places as Hawaii, Tahiti, Hongkong and Tokyo.

Then he began to dictate but, to Lyn's relief, he had hardly begun when they arrived at the house in Tagaytay. They would over a long, twisting drive past farms and a tennis court before they halted in front of charming house which rambled endlessly in all directions. Expecting an austere formal mansion, which she despised, Lyn and delighted.

An hour later, as they sat together on a wrought-iron love seat in a cloistered garden near the swimming pool, Mr Alegre said, "Well, Lyn, what do you think of all this?" He made a sweeping gesture, big enough to include his whole empire.

"I'm positively in love with everything I've seen!"

"In that case," said Mr. Alegre, watching her intently, "I'll make you a present of it. This place, the penthouse, my home and yacht in Florida, my whole way of life. All yours, Lyn — if you'll marry me. For my part, there would be no problem. My divorce papers came in this morning's mail."

Swiftly, as Lyn sat gaping, he reached an arm around her and kissed her. She was much too overwhelmed to resist for more than a moment, after which she joined in the kiss, presenting it as a reward to this man who had just offered to make her queen of his rich kingdom.

When he told her again how much he loved her, she said, "But Mr. Alegre, I can't —"

"I do wish you'd call me Jimmy," he pleaded.

"But I can't possibly marry you — Jimmy. Have you forgotten Larry?"

"On the contrary, I've given Larry a great deal of thought. Could we buy him off?"

"Never! If the price is right, you could buy anything in the world from Larry — but me. Anyway, it's foolish to discuss Larry at this point. I haven't had a minute to consider my own feelings."

"Take all the time you want, Lyn dear."

Lyn was confused. It was obvious that Larry was never going to have anything or be anything. And perhaps, chained to a life of semi-poverty the dull monotonous years would soon crush her feeling for him.

On the other side, Jimmy was most attractive and you might easily grow to love a man who cultivated you in surroundings which were the stuff of the timeslow dream makers. Only an idiot would dismiss a man like Jaime Alegre with a few trite phrases about the comparative unimportance of money when you were in love.

Lyn said, "I can't say how... how pleased and flattered I am that you would — but I'm happily married and I don't really know you, Jimmy. You seem kind, but might turn out to be cruel. You seem generous, but you might be..."

"Darling," he interrupted, "didn't I just say that all of this is yours for the asking?"

"Yes, you did say that. But at the risk of sounding selfish, I want things of my own. Personal things, money to spend freely. Because, Jimmy, in my whole life I never had more than a few pesos that were mine alone."



Ed Pozan, Jr Understanding is a must

APPARENTLY, up and coming pop singer Ed Pozan, Jr. is not aware of his potentially devastating effect on women. Only 18, he seems reticent, naive, almost like a little boy. But, six-foot Ed is definitely fabulously good-looking. The youngest of the three children of Mr. and Mrs. Edilberto Pozan, Sr. (he is a Hong Kong-based international trader), Ed is in senior high at the International School and will be graduating coming June. Last March 30, on his birthday, Ed had a concert at the "Cosmo Lounge" in Green-hills and it was such a hit. Ed outdid himself — that Ed has been offered a contract with Victor Records and a lead movie role by Viva Films. Sorry to say, but, Ed admits that he has a girlfriend at the moment. What does he think makes relationship tick? "I believe understanding each other is the most important element of a happy relationship." Next comes "trust, being unselfish, devoting time and caring to your partner and loving her or him the best way you know how." Respect, Ed observes, also plays a vital part — but, respect, he clarifies, is just one factor leading to love, an aspect of love. To make the partnership work out, says Ed, the couple should be realistic and able to handle realities together, no matter how unpleasant they may be. In his view, "happiness is only a state of mind —" which, fortunately, is attainable within a relationship if there is an interplay of the elements he speaks of.



(To be continued)

Fashion passion



Barge Ramos designs a handwoven barong tagalog in cotton polyester with itugao-inspired black pechera pattern (L), while TONI GALANG creates a contemporary chaqueta-style and barong ensemble in ecru just embroidered in black, and paired with black velvet chemise dress (R).



Barge Ramos designs a Muslim-inspired formal gown in black, tangerine and gold beaded silk, complimented by TONI GALANG's black dyed just barong tagalog with handpainted Philippine flora motif.



Barge Ramos designs a beaded evening jacket and slim ankle-length skirt in fuchsia, inspired from the southern Muslims (L), accessorized with "excavated gold" earrings, necklace and bangles by St. Cyr. TONI GALANG designs a black dyed just barong tagalog (R), handpainted with the moon and the stars.

ALL that is Filipino in terms of clothes, accessories and shoes take centre stage during the "Barong Filipino" fashion gala. Designers Barge Ramos and Toni Galang

prepared a fantastic collection of Philippine contemporary wear for the '90s inspired from the rich indigenous Philippine handwoven and ethnographic prints. The

just, the pina, the sinamay, the Iloko cloth, and other tribal weaves are transformed into beautiful dress and elegant barong tagalog for men.

These two designers occupy a niche in Philippine fashion history for their dedication to bringing out the best in everything that is Filipino.

The hardworking congressmen

In the Philippines, Congress is supposed to be the house of the representatives of the people. They are the body that is supposed to be the voice of ordinary citizens. This is the reason why we refer to the members of the congress as Representatives.

In recent years, the congress has been rocked by scandals one after the other. There is this member of the congress who was involved in gun smuggling, while others have allocated for themselves the quota for the support of young congressmen. The bickering among congressmen has not stopped. And so, congress has always been compared to a circus.

The problem starts with the Speaker of the House of Representatives. It seems that Speaker Mitra is highly involved in politics. He has worked so hard to improve his chances of one day becoming president. And so, a lot of compromise has to be worked out. In our local parlance, this is nothing but horse-trading.

Take the case of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Bill. It is so defective, yet Speaker Mitra battled for the bill in order that the administration can have something to bring up for the US State Visit. A semblance of a working democracy.

Remember Speaker Mitra in one of the media forums asked why the CARP bill had to be rammed through, when all they have to do is to work out a better version. And he answered that a defective law can be remedied by some amendments. This is not logical. But just the same, the bill was passed. And disaster is not far behind. This has become controversial, that we can only blame Speaker Mitra for all its future effects in our lives.

Some mysterious means seem to be the order of the day in Congress. Take the case of one congressman from the South. The reason he is for industrial land development is that he is known as a realtor in his province. He fight tooth and nail to make industrial estate an "in" thing. This will increase his sales.

Or take the case of another congressman from the

south. He ranks among the poorest in the lot. Yet, notwithstanding his silence in congress, he is building a P4 million house in his hometown.

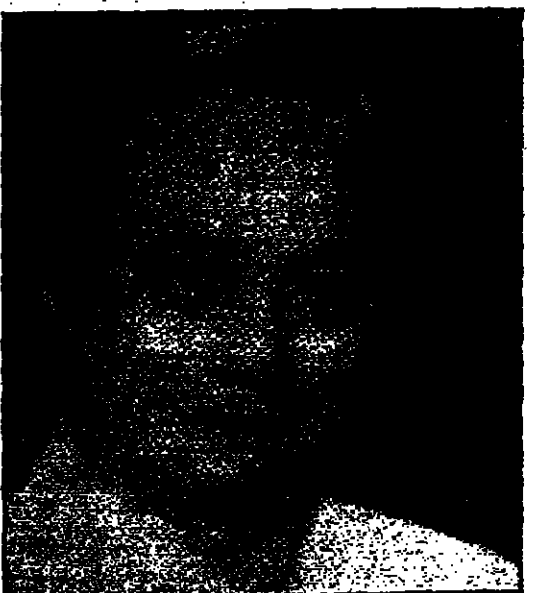
And then there's the wife of a congressman, this time from the north. She is known for her expensive way of life. Now she buys real estate by the dozens. She has quite an investment in posh Makati villages. She seems to have a lot of money, she buys houses 6 at a time.

Mrs. Congressman is known for her big time spending. When she was still married to a contractor, the former husband got the shock of his life. He was charged P40,000 for the maids' one year uniform. It was designed by a very expensive designer.

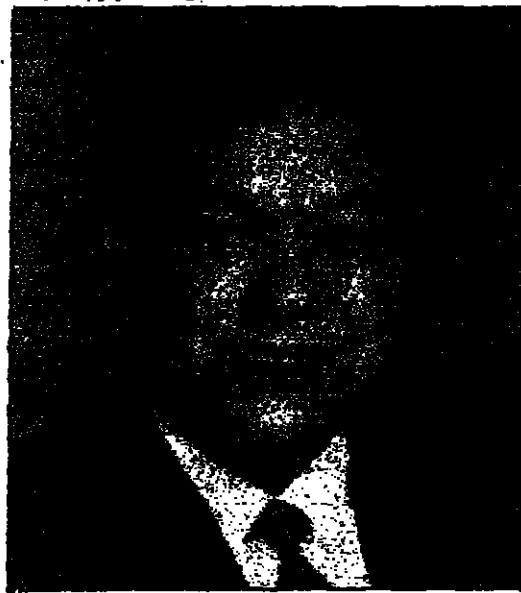
Now, what about another congressman? He seems to be involved in practically all the illegal activities in his province. Could this be the reason why his wife and the governor's wife are not in talking terms? The feud must be that great!

Notwithstanding, there are also hard working congressmen in our midst. Take the case of Congressman Salvador Escudero of the 2nd district of Sorsogon. He is hardworking. Every weekend, he is in his hometown. He makes sure that even the farflung barangays are visited during the weekend. He starts his day at the crack of dawn, walking up the mountains, crossing rivers and seas to visit and interact with the people. He is always in touch with reality. This former Secretary of Agriculture seems at ease with the people in the barrios. He also enjoys their company.

In the case of Albertito Lopez, he has a secret weapon in the person of his wife Emily. Albertito, who seems bent on running for the Vice-Presidency as the running mate of Senator Joseph Estrada, works hard to improve the livelihood of his constituents. It is a far cry from his flamboyant way of life, many years ago.



Albertito Lopez



Miguel Romero

Beauty

A perfect base

YOU don't need fancy tools to apply foundation like a pro! The best tools are simple ones: a sponge, your finger and a few Q-tips. Use a finely textured sponge to smooth on foundation. Porous sponges may leave an uneven finish and they'll definitely absorb — and waste — foundation. To start, apply a dot of base to your forehead, nose, just above your upper lip, chin and each cheekbone. To guard against applying too much base, and to reduce the pressure on your skin, lightly sweep the foundation up and away from the centre of your face with the sponge. Use your fingers to work foundation in around eyes and nose, and too smooth it in at the edges of your face. A moistened Q-tip works for removing any excess around lips, nose or brows. To freshen up later in the day, mist the skin's surface with water, or apply a bit of foundation with damp sponge to areas that light strikes — under your eyes, at the brow, on top of cheekbones.

Cool tips

1. Refresh puffy, tired eyes with cotton balls soaked in cool water or chilled chamomile tea. Put one on each lid, put up your feet, relax for a minute or two.
2. If wearing moisturizer and base seems like too much, mix a little of your moisturizer into your foundation.
3. For a longer-lasting coverage without the heaviness of foundation, use a tinted moisturizer and dust with loose translucent powder. To set, gently mist face and Evian water; powder once more.
4. It may seem like a good idea to tone down sunburned skin with foundation or powder, but be careful — both may contain irritating fragrances. If you want some coverage, opt for a fragrance-free powder — it won't sink into burned skin, which means less potential for irritation.

Diaz and Barretto reform

IN the episode "Minsan Pang Mailap ang Tadhana" of "Seiko TV Presents... Gretchen Barretto, the sex goddess of Philippine movies and television, will once again portray the role of prostitute.

On the other hand her guest Julio Diaz will assume the role of hardened criminal. They will fall in love and live together, and decided to reform. He will try so hard to find a decent job while she stays at home as a devoted housewife. Life for them will be unbearable, both of them having no source of income. Julio will finally find a decent job, but fate will have it that his past is still there to tragically haunt him.

Bobby Zornack will be the other guest in "Minsan Pang Mailap ang Tadhana." Abbo dela Cruz directs from the script of Joan Chionglo and Felix Ngo. Gerry Guillen Bagait executive — produces.

Talent at its best

SMART women are always looking for the best ways to put their talents into use and Angelique Lazo is just that — smart as a whip, both externally and internally.

A familiar fixture at ABS-CBN Channel 2's TV Patrol and sometimes in the late news hour, Angelique has lent authority to her newscast and a depth to her career that few women on TV can boast off. A bubbly person with laughing eyes that could melt a man's heart, Angelique stayed eight years in Japan where her father was Armed Forces Attaché at the Philippine Embassy in Tokyo. She finished her grade and secondary years and a part of college at the Seisen International School and at the Tokyo International School.

"My Japanese is very colloquial. The whole family stayed there with my father. My mother taught music there. In fact, my youngest brother was born in Tokyo."

The family came back to the Philippines in 1979 and Angelique enrolled at the Ateneo de Manila University in Communication Arts. "I was with the Ateneo Glee Club and I studied voice culture for a year or two. Our Glee Club enjoyed international competition which required us to sing classical music. If one did not have the proper training, he'd have a hard time singing the songs assigned to us."

As a member of the Glee Club for almost five years, she was the leader of her section and sometimes acted as soloist during programmes. At the same time, she felt she had to study some more subjects so she took up Economics in the same institution. But then, Ed Filañan who was at that time production manager of Channel 4 was looking for someone, alive, bubbly and charming, as a partner for Baby O'Brien in a morning show. He spotted Angelique and immediately hired her for what was to her, "my first real exposure to TV." With this first job, Angelique could not, although she tried to, juggle her time between her studies and broadcasting, she sacrificed the former.

"After the EDSA revolution, I was stuck in Channel 4. I was there to do my job, not for anything else, since I am a very apolitical person. Baby was not there, all of them, in fact were not there. I was handling features then. We were stuck inside and it took the whole day for us to come out of the studio. Maybe that was a message for me to live low for a while."

Angelique thought of going into singing but Baby O'Brien who was her manager went to Malaysia to manage a band, that was about the same time when Channel 2 opened. David Nye and Angelique auditioned for the management. Angelique brought her tapes along the power-that-be liked what they saw and heard, so she was accepted. "We were the first people at CBN. The concept of TV Patrol was already there but it was not yet implemented until March when Freddie Garcia came over."

Angelique is single and to a lot of people, that is surprising. "When I was younger, I aimed to pattern my life with that of my mother. She was still single when she practices her profession but she believes that once a girl gets married, family life should come first and foremost. She got married at the age of 23. At that time, I also felt I'd get married at 23. I only worked at a career because I was still single then and I said that once I get married, my priority would be to have a family and be a companion to my husband. But fate decreed otherwise."

She had a boyfriend when she was 23 years old. But the relationship didn't work out because of certain differences between them. First, he was of a different race. Second, his religion differed from that of Angelique. Third, he had to go to the States and it was hard to maintain a long-distance affair. These were certain obstacles. Angelique's family, for instance, is a devout Catholic and he was Jewish.

"So, several questions popped up. How do we share things together? How will our children be brought up, etc?" Without our having to say it, time just solved the matter for us. We just drifted apart. Besides, I was enjoying my life with my singing and my stint on TV broadcasting. So I said I'll get married at 25. But I didn't have a boyfriend at that age so I said I'll settle down when I am 27 years old. But here I am at 28 and still single. "Now, her philosophy is, don't think about it and it will come like a lady."

Physically, Angelique is still as charming as ever. But she considerably grown slimmer. Is it love or Manny?

"Money?" she pretends innocence, then laughs. "Basically, I try to eat healthy foods. I know that a particular dish is fattening, I eat just a little of it. I do a lot of exercise and that couple with my work, here I am, slender as a reed."

Angelique has some old-fashioned notions when it comes to personal relationships. She does not go for live-ins. "When you choose to live with someone, it's a union that needs to be blessed by God for it to be lasting and fulfilling. We are just transients here on earth and we should make the most of it with the blessings of the Almighty."

On the liberated woman: "I believe that women have the right to exert themselves, to excel in whatever field if they have the talent and should not be discriminated upon because of their sex. Since I have three brothers I'm used to dealing with the opposite sex. I like to be treated like a lady, but if I can't find it or if it's not there, I won't look for it. I won't sulk or rant just because I can't find something who'll treat me like a lady."

"I've met all kinds of students from different countries. If they're of different opinions and beliefs, I do not castigate them. I accept them for what they are. My mind has been broadened to accept everyone and see in them only the beauty and goodness that God created in them as individuals."



If you've got these qualities which Angelique likes in a man, then, don't hesitate to give vent to your feelings for her — you have to love her first of all, you have to be responsible and should take care of her with love and affection. You, of course, should know when to leave her alone (if she's not in the mood); you have to be outgoing, and someone who'd try to understand others and adjust to them.

From the provinces

CALAUAG, Quezon: The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) has earmarked P2.4 for infrastructure projects this year in this coastal town, it was reported.

Mayor Julio U. Lim said that the Quezon II engineering district headed by District Engineer Medardo F. Pangasinan said that the funds allotted for infrastructure projects on other Quezon towns are as follows.

Atimonan and Lopez towns, P3.8 million each; Gumaca and Guinayangan town P2.9 million; Alabat, P2.6 million; Quezon, P2.4 million; Patid, P2.1 million; Tagkawayan, P1.8 million; and Perez, P1.7 million.

BACOR, Cavite: Five armed men held up the Bacor branch of the Bank of Philippine Islands on the Gen Aguineldo Highway in this town and made off with some P900,000 in cash.

The police investigation showed the two of the holdup men entered the bank by posing as bank depositors. Once inside, they poked their guns at the security guard identified as Marie Naparan, 45, and divested of his .38 caliber revolver.

The three other robbers who were outside disarmed the other guard identified as Joenaid Abad, 33, of his .12 gauge shotgun.

Sgt Pablo Ramirez, Bacor police chief investigator, said that the six bank employees, the manager, and four bank depositors were ordered by the two armed men to lie face down on the floor.

The robbers escaped towards Las Pinas aboard a 1979 red Lancer car with an improvised plate and with serial number NPA-914.

BAGUI CITY: The days of "ghost" and "15-30" employees in various government agencies and offices are numbered, Patricia Sto. Tomas, Civil Service Commission (CSC) chairman, said here yesterday.

Sto. Tomas told public and private school officials attending the 1990 Educators Congress at Teachers' Camp here that she had created CSC personnel audit teams to check the number of permanent, temporary and casual workers and officials in the government.

"Ghost" employees are non-existent government workers, while "15-30" employees are those who do nothing but collect their pay on the 15th and 30th day of the month.

Sto. Tomas said the CSC made the move after receiving many reports on the presence in some government firms of "ghost" or non-existent employees.

She said the presence of these employees raised to 1.5 million the number of government workers.

She said "ghost" and 15-30 employees to be found by CSC teams will be dropped immediately from the government service.

"This will eliminate excess personnel and help streamline the government bureaucracy. Teh big number of state employees has not improved the workers' efficiency and effectiveness in many government offices," Sto. Tomas said.

The CSC chairman said officials who appointed "ghost" employees will be held responsible for them.

The officials will be charged by the CSC administratively and criminally for gross negligence of duty and conduct unbecoming and prejudicial to the govern-

ment, Sto. Tomas said. "In the extreme, these officials will also be dismissed from the service," Sto. Tomas said.

She added that the CSC audit team for the Ilocos region discovered recently the employment last school year of 300 "ghost" public elementary school teachers in Pangasinan.

"School officials responsible for this irregularity will be punished accordingly," she said.

MANILA: Manila Mayor Gemiliano C. Lopez Jr appealed to Malacanang to defer its announced move to seek the repeal of the anti-squatting law pending the holding of further studies and public hearings.

In a letter to President Aquino, Lopez called attention to certain serious implications of the decision to recommend to Congress the repeal of Presidential Decree 772.

Lopez said that "as it is now, even without the said repeal squatters have been emboldened as to occupy and encroach upon every conceivable public property, not to mention private properties with the least record for the rights of others."

The mayor said that instead of putting deterrent to the unauthorized occupancy of properties belonging to others, repeal of the law would give a premium to squatting.

The mayor said that even at present squatters could not be removed unless a relocation site is available and prior to a dialogue with the squatters.

"The removal of any restrictions on squatting can readily lead to anarchy in the observance of property rights," Lopez said.

The mayor said the repeal of the law would give the impression that the administration considers occupying properties belonging to others without the permission or consent as not necessarily wrong.

He suggested deferment of the administration move to seek repeal of the law and instead hold further studies and hearings.

MANILA: The \$222-million shortfall in payments under the military bases agreement (MBA) presented by the Philippine interagency committee was the result of computations made after the receipt of the US embassy's own computations.

This was explained by Foreign Affairs Secretary Raul S. Manglapus who clarified the discrepancies between the Philippine and US figures in the exchange of notes on the MBA compensation packages.

"It appears that the US would like us to accept a mixture of grants and loans, in the development assistance and food aid packages," Manglapus said.

He said, "our position has always been that all of these should be in grants."

The US also holds the position, that whatever they give out to be counted as their normal assistance, but we maintain that whatever is given under the agreement should be over and above the normal levels that they have given us in development assistance and food aid," Manglapus said.

He also pointed out that the revised figures prepared by the inter-agency committee also counted the so-called "lost opportunities" resulting from the non-waiver of the Berry amendment in the procurement of supplies for US bases facilities from RP

suppliers.

Reacting to the charge by the US embassy that Philippines has not implemented the bases security plan, Manglapus said: "It is very clear that we have not implemented it because they refuse to give the funds that they are obliged to do under our agreement."

"We have explained to them that there is no logical way in inferring from the language of the agreement that the money should come from the existing levels that are included in the compensation package," he said.

"The funds for the bases security are obviously out of the realm of the compensation package, and these are expected to be given directly by the US," Manglapus added.

MANILA: A pretty international fashion model was found dead in a room of a five-star hotel in Manila.

Pat. Nestor Napao-it, homicide investigator of the Western Police District (WPD), identified the model as Corazon Villacorta, 31, known as "Corazon Taya" in Tokyo, Japan, and residing at 4774 V. Mapa St. Sta. Mesa, Manila.

Police found her naked body in bed in Room 907 on the ninth floor of the Silahis International Hotel on Roxas Blvd., Ermita.

Hotel officials barred newsmen from entering the building and prevented Bulletin photographer Joseph Muego from taking pictures of the model.

Capt. Gene Javier, WPD homicide chief, said Villacorta's Japanese friend, Sakai Eisei, 47, of Chibakan, Japan, was picked up for questioning.

Police said Eisei was the last companion of Villacorta before she was found dead at 8.30 am.

Eisei told police that he and Villacorta met in Japan sometime this month, arrived in Manila, and stayed at the Silahis International Hotel.

Eisei said they occupied Room 907 with two separate beds. He said that at dawn yesterday, he saw Villacorta vomiting. He added that Villacorta felt all right and went back to bed.

At 8.30am, Eisei said he woke up and found the dead body of Villacorta in the other bed.

BATANGAS CITY: Two teenage officials from Germany arrived to co-ordinate with officers of Batangas City Council for Youth Affairs its development project for young people. A German city is sponsoring jointly with the local government.

Mayor Eduardo B. Dimasucha said the project is among the cultural exchange activities lined up by the executive committee of the newly forged sister-city relationship between Batangas City and Langfeldt City of West Germany.

Dimasucha, who is still in Germany for the signing of the sister-city agreement, disclosed during a call to his office staff in Batangas.

The youthful officials from Langfeldt Mayor's Office Youth Affairs Bureau will stay in Batangas City for two weeks. They will confer with their counterparts in the local government on youth development programme for the two cities are to undertake. Later, formal plans will be drafted on the matter.

The Batangas City-Langfeldt City project was launched under the Philippine-German sister city relationship programme administered by the Department of Local Government.



Tribute to war vets

President Corason Aquino greets war veterans confined at the Veterans' Memorial Medical Centre in Quizon City, where she inaugurated a renovated ward. She later unveiled the marker of a room dedicated to her slain husband, former senator Benigno S. Aquino Jr., who was confined there after a 40-day fast during the Marcos regime. The President was guided around the hospital by Defence Secretary Fidel Ramos, Dr Sergio Brillantes, hospital director, and Asuncion Lazaro, head nurse.

3 Filcheck events set for June 8

IN the observance of the 92nd year of Philippine independence, the Filipino Chess Club in Kuwait (Filcheck) has lined up several activities on Friday, June 8 at the Messilah Beach Club in connection with the Pistang Pinoy, a fun-filled whole day Pre-Independence Day celebration being organised by the Philippine Embassy.

From 7:00 am during the civic parade, the club will hold the opening ceremony of this year's Inter-Commercial Team Chess Tournament. Ten teams have so far confirmed their participation to the tournament, namely: Hatid-Ligaya, Door-to-Door Forwarders, Kirby Building System, Al Wazzan/Castrol, Al Masayel Est., JM Int'l, Al Rashed Freight, Far East Bank, City Int'l, Exchn., Refrigeration Industries, Al Salam Hotel and Kabayan Restaurant. Deadline for the submission of entries has been extended till Friday, June 1 to give time to other interested parties to complete their teams.

At 9:30 am, the club will hold a one-day tournament - the Rakan Chess Blitz which will feature five-minute chess blitz games - with the top three finishers for both groups (rated A & B) receiving a trophy and valuable gift items, donated by Mahmoud Younis Al Mesad, managing director of Rakan Electronics Co., distributor of Rakan Video Home Computers.

As an added attraction to the event, the club will feature the "Beat Kasparov and Win a prize Contest", sponsored by Adawlah Universal Electronics, distributor of Kasparov chess computers in Kuwait. The contest is open to all Filipino chess lovers, male or female, children and adults. Valuable prizes await the lucky winners of each category.

Club president Edward Racaza is calling on all officers, team captains and managers to meet on Friday, June 1 at 10:00 am at Kabayan Restaurant to discuss the club's forthcoming activities in conjunction with the June 8 affair. Changes in the tournament rules will also be discussed on that day. Attendance is compulsory.

Meanwhile, all "Check-mates" have been asked to report to Filcheck headquarters to secure their IDs and uniforms. Those who have not yet committed themselves to play in any team must see the club president immediately. For details call 2402405, Edward or Sammy.

Rose lawyers receive report

CINCINNATI, May 26. (AP) Lawyers for Pete Rose received a pre-sentencing report yesterday in his income-tax case, Rose's spokeswoman said.

"We have absolutely no comment to make on it," Barbara Pinzka said.

Prosecutors and Rose's lawyers have 10 days to object to any factual statements in the report before it is sent to US district Judge S. Arthur Spiegel, said Pat Crowley, supervising officer in the US Probation Office here.

Rose pleaded guilty before Spiegel in April to filing false federal income-tax returns for 1985 and 1987. He faces six years in prison and a \$500,000 fine.

Federal sentencing guidelines require the confidential report on a convict's offense, criminal history, education, employment history, alcohol or drug abuse and financial situation, Crowley said.

Gooch's ton stops Kiwis in 2nd game

England win one-day series



Gooch: hit an unbeaten 112

LONDON, May 26. (Reuters) Captain Graham Gooch led from the front with an unbeaten 112 as England beat New Zealand by six wickets in the second one-day cricket international yesterday.

England scored 213 for four from 49.3 overs in reply to New Zealand's 212 for six from their 55 overs to win the two-match series on faster run rate. New Zealand won the first international at Headingley on Wednesday.

Gooch, who has been in splendid form for his county Essex this season, took full advantage of a let off at second slip after he had scored only one.

He edged Richard Hadlee, who again bowled magnificently with the new ball, to Mark Greatbatch who spilled a straight-forward chance.

The miss was cruel luck for both Hadlee, bowling with a cracked bone on the little finger of his right hand, and Greatbatch, who had held the New Zealand innings together with 111.

Hadlee retired hurt after scoring nine when he was hit on the hand by paceman Chris Lewis but returned to bowl his full quota of 11 overs and troubled

all the batsmen in taking two for 34.

New Zealand manager Ian Taylor said the 38-year-old all-rounder had not been ruled out of the first Test at Nottingham, starting in two weeks' time.

"The surgeon says he should be able to play but it will be a question of him putting up with the pain," Taylor said.

Batsman Ken Rutherford was another New Zealand casualty, retiring hurt when he was struck over the left eye by Lewis. He was detained overnight in hospital for observation.

Greatbatch, who won the first international for New Zealand with an unbeaten century, hit 10 fours and a six from only 130 deliveries.

But even he looked uncomfortable against fast bowler Devon Malcolm, who enjoyed a memorable first one-day international with two for 19 from his 11 overs.

Crucially, Malcolm enjoyed better support than Hadlee, who was the only New Zealand bowler to look at all dangerous.

He bowled David Gower for four, putting the enigmatic left-hander's revived England career in jeopardy, and then had Robin Smith caught behind for five.

Gooch, though, was at his

phlegmatic best, crashing 15 fours in a masterly innings lasting 305 minutes and taking 152 balls.

Scoreboard	
NEW ZEALAND innings	
J. Wright c Small b Malcolm	15
A. Jones run out	15
M. Crowe c Russell b Lewis	7
M. Greatbatch c Smith b Malcolm	111
K. Rutherford retired hurt	0
R. Hadlee retired hurt	9
M. Priest c Smith b DeFreitas	24
I. Smith not out	25
C. Pringle b Small	1
Extras (lb-2 w-3)	5
Total (for six wickets) 212	—
Innings closed	
Fall of wickets 1-25 2-33 3-53 4-174 5-202 6-212	
Did not bat J. Millmow, D. Morrison	
Bowling DeFreitas 11-1-47-1, Malcolm 11-5-19-2, Lewis 11-1-51-1, small 11-0-59-1, Hemmings 11-2-34-0	

ENGLAND innings	
G. Gooch not out	112
D. Gower b Hadlee	4
R. Smith c Smith b Hadlee	5
A. Lamb lbw b Pringle	28
A. Stewart c Morrison b Priest	47
J. Russell not out	13
Extras (lb-7 w-5 nb-1)	13
Total (four wickets, 49.3 overs) 213	
Fall of wickets 1-52 2-15 3-29 4-104	
Did not bat G. Lewis, P. DeFreitas	
Bowling Hadlee 11-2-34-2, Pringle 9-0-53-1, Millmow 9-1-47-0, Morrison 9-0-38-0, Priest 11-2-34-1	
Result England won by six wickets	

KPBL 2nd Conference set for June 15

THE 'Kuwait Pinoy Basketball League (KPBL)' is in its final preparations for its forthcoming 2nd-Conference basketball

volleyball competitions set for June 15, 1990 at the Kaifan Secondary High School Gymnasium. This was disclosed by the 'KPBL Secretariat' who added that the games are intended to be a "post celebration of sorts" of the Filipino community's 92nd Philippines' Independence Day (June 12, 1898) celebrations.

A total of 30 teams are expected to sign up and beat the June 4 "deadline for submission of entries."

Leading the pack in the All Filipino Men's Basketball Division is the 1st-Con. Champs KPBC who loom as the "team to

beat" in lieu of its power-house intact line-up. The challengers are as follows:

Al Ghanim-Jahra; Al Ghanim-Mangali; Al Wayne Trading; Al Widud; Capcom; Hasawi Eagles; Kaleco; Kay & Associates; Kelloggs Plants Services; Kirby Building Systems; Kuwait Hotels Co. Bayan; Kuwait International Hotel; Kuwait Regency Palace; N.I.C.; Nissan Al Bahrain; Overland Transport Co. Pizza Italia; Trend Wave.

In the 'Open/Expatriates' Men's Basketball Invitational, the list of entries are as follows: BES Engineering; Gulf English School; RPTeam A; RPTeam B; Kuwait Sea Sports Club; Universal American School.

Two of the eight allotted slots in this division are still unoccupied

and the organizers have announced that entries are welcome on a first-come-first-serve basis.

In the ladies' basketball volleyball competitions, registration is still under way, and as in the All Filipino Open/Expatriates' Division, deadline of submission of entries is June 4, 1990.

In a related development, the 'KPBL Secretariat' has announced that an "all important meeting" is set for tomorrow 8:00 pm, at the Mabuhay Restaurant, Fahad Al Salem St., Kuwait City. This is concerning the KPBL's full participation in the forthcoming Philippines' Independence Day celebrations, which are being held under the auspices of the Philippine embassy.

Colombians tie WBA title fight

CARTAGENA, Colombia, May 26. (Reuters) Luis Mendoza salvaged a draw with a final-round comeback against fellow Colombian Rubin Palacios in their fight for the vacant World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-featherweight title today.

The aggressive Palacios, ranked number two contender by the WBA, built up a strong points lead in the middle rounds of the fight against the top-ranked Mendoza.

Mendoza, blood spurring from his lower lip, looked beaten at one stage but in the 12th and final round he produced a flurry of punches and Palacios had to struggle to hang on until the bell.

Filipino tennis entries open

THE 1990 All-Filipino Tennis Tournament will start on June 14 at the Holiday Inn Hotel Tennis Courts. This tourney is open to all Filipinos and is classified into 3 levels: Advance, Intermediate, and Beginners.

Individual entries and not teams play in a double knock-out system. Games to be played are men & ladies singles and men's doubles. This tournament is organized by Kay & Associates Tennis Club.

The sponsors include: Al Rashed Freight, Kuwait Tourism & Shipping Co. City International Exchange/Far East Bank, Mabuhay Restaurant among others.

For more information, call Ed Samia; 5339587;

Danny Felix; 3901061; and Rod Mendoza; 5339879.

Registration forms can be picked-up from a) Shuaiba area - Herbert Mendoza of Kremenco; b) Fahadheel - Marian Gabotero Palomata of AlSawan Travel Agency between Commercial Bank & Samson, Tel. 3912016; 3911459; c) Farwaniah - Nester Llanes of Farwaniah Tennis Club, Tel. 4764554 and in the d) City - Amy Abdon of Maharika Novelty at the basement of Salhiya Towers, Shop 11, Fahad Al Salem St. almost fronting the GPO, Tel. 2460463. At stake are championship trophies, plane ticket to Manila and other prizes. Deadline for registration is June 6, 1990.

Tyson resumes training

LAS VEGAS, May 26. (AP) When last seen in public with boxing gloves on Mike Tyson was lying on the canvas in the Tokyo Dome before 40,000 shocked Japanese and one jubilant Buster Douglas.

In the stifling heat of a tin-can gymnasium this week, Tyson held a coming out party of sorts, breaking his veil of secrecy to go five rounds with two sparring partners in front of a handful of writers and photographers.

"I'm kind of almost glad to see you guys," he told the writers. "I must be a hum. I can't wait to get back in front of a crowd again."

It Tyson is a ham, he didn't show it before Thursday's workout at the Golden Gloves Gym.

Aside from mandatory appearances at three press conferences promoting his June 16 comeback fight against Henry Tillman, Tyson's entourage has kept him sheltered and his workouts private.

Even his sparring partners weren't quite sure they should be talking about the former champion.

"It's been kind of hush-hush around here," Rufus Hadley told a writer. "I don't know if it's okay for me to talk to you."

The secrecy had some questioning both his state of mind and his state of conditioning following the devastating knockout loss at the hands of Douglas. Tyson's moodiness at the press conferences only added to the speculation.

"I was really never depressed," Tyson said after his workout. "It's nothing to cry over. You just pick yourself back up and brush yourself off and come back."

Spurle sets world mark

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand, May 26. (Reuters) New Zealand racing driver Heather Spurle shattered today the women's world water speed record held by Gina Campbell, daughter of legendary record holder Donald Campbell.

Spurle took advantage of near perfect conditions to power across Lake Ruataniwha in the South Island at 270 kph (168mph) in her hydro-plane and reclaim the record from her British arch-rival Campbell.

The speed was 36 kph (23 mph) faster than Campbell's previous records, set in New Zealand earlier this year. Spurle, a 29-year-old Auckland, and Campbell have exchanged the record several times.

Tellex said Lewis still planned to run in Europe later this summer.

TAC said it learned yesterday that two of Cuba's top track and field athletes are skipping the Bruce Jenner Track and Field Meet this weekend in San Jose, Calif.

Javier Sotomayor, the world record-holder in the men's high jump, and female runner Ana Quirot are among those passing up the Grand Prix meet today.

The Cuban athletics federation had earlier agreed with TAC to have the Athletics Travel from Sao Paulo, Brazil, to San Jose to compete in the meet.

The Cuban federation told TAC officials yesterday that the US State Department denied visas for the athletes. State Department officials said the visas were authorized yesterday.

The athletes instead went to complete in Spain.

Lewis to skip US athletics meet



Carl Lewis

RALEIGH, North Carolina, May 25. (Reuters) Six-time Olympic champion Carl Lewis will not participate in the US National Championships again this year, his coach said yesterday.

The decision apparently means Lewis will not be eligible for the Goodwill Games in Seattle in July unless the Athletics Congress (TAC) grants him an exemption from its rule that failure to participate in the Nationals bars an athlete from competing at the Goodwill Games.

"We never planned to run at the TAC championships," Tom Tellex, Lewis' longtime coach, told Reuters by telephone from his Houston office.

Tellex said Lewis had not trained for six months during the winter while working on his autobiography and would not be prepared to run in the meeting.

TAC, the sport's US govern-

ing body, passed its rule - linking participation in the US Athletics Championships, June 12-16, with the Goodwill Games - at its annual convention last year.

Asked by Reuters yesterday whether an exception would be made for Lewis, who has served as a spokesman for the Goodwill Games, TAC spokesman Pete Cava said: "He would have to compete in the Nationals to compete in the Goodwill Games."

But Cava would not rule out the possibility of more discussions.

Lewis boycotted the US championships because of philosophical differences with TAC. This time it is a matter of preparedness, Tellex said.

"He hasn't been training consistently because he was been doing so many things," Tellex said. "So there is no point in going there and running. He's not ready."



All the participants on the opening day.

Osama and Valisno move into early lead

THE Philippine Bowling Association in Kuwait (PBAK) held on Friday the 3rd Al Ghanim Open bowling tournament at the Holiday Inn bowling lanes.

The event, which is one of PBAK's major tournaments in its bowling calendar is being sponsored by Al Ghanim Freight.

Before the start of the actual competition, a brief opening ceremony, presided by former PBAK executive vice president Cora Paras was held.

Present during the opening rites were Mahmoud Jalajel, manager of Al Ghanim Freight, Dr. Dauday Tago, the minister-counselor and consul general of the Philippine mission in Kuwait, atty. Loy Cortel and Taha Guinomia, the legal officer and administrative officer respectively of the Philippine embassy.

Rico Pino of Al Ghanim Freight who is also the former pres. of PBAK and Ms Julie Dent, the recreational manager of Holiday Inn.

Consecutive

Welcome remarks were given by PBAK president Jimmy Tadana and Ms Julie Dent while atty. Cortel delivered an inspirational talk on behalf of the Philippine ambassador to Kuwait, Dr. Mayayag Mohamed Tamano. And to open the tournament proper, ceremonial balls were thrown by Dr. Tago, Mahmoud Jalajel and finally by Ms Julie Dent.

Shortly before the start of games, Rico Pino announced that Alba watches will be given to those bowlers who can roll five consecutive strikes in the mens' division and three consecutive strikes in the ladies group. The ladies namely Baby Penalosa, Cecil Valisno and Nitz Alinea wasted no time and collected the strikes needed to win the prize at stake while in the mens group only Bada Borja managed to string up five strikes, so two more watches are up for grabs in the mens' division.

As for the opening day leaders in the mens' division the top scorer was Osama with 1131 pin-falls, followed by Fahad Al Houbishi (1105), Bada Borja (1072), Vic Choong (1052) and ageless Wally Flores with 1040.

In the womens' division the early leaders were: Cecil Valisno (998), Vicky Mendoza (947), Corba Paras (942), Nitz Alinea (937) and Mercy Laborce with 884. The High Games were registered by Bada Borja with his impressive score of 247 pinfalls and by Cecil Valisno who got a 216.

The elimination round will go on until May 31 and game time is at 6:00 pm.

Due to further developments, the awarding for the Graded B and C and for the on going Al Ghanim Open will be held at the Messilah Beach at 6:00 pm and will coincide with the Pre-Independence Day celebrations



Stanley Cup

Edmonton Oilers captain Mark Messier holds the Stanley Cup over his head as he poses through the crowd at the Edmonton International Airport as they return after beating Boston Bruins in the final (Reuters wirephoto)

Fittipaldi seeks 2nd straight Indy victory

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana, May 26. (Reuters) Brazilian Emerson Fittipaldi, who has won the hearts of American racing fans, goes after his second consecutive Indianapolis 500-mile (800 km) motor race tomorrow feeling "the odds are behind me" to win again.

Fittipaldi, 43, will start from the pole position in a front-row that has two other drivers from different continents. Starting next to Fittipaldi will be three-time winner Rick Mears of the United States. Arie Luyendyk of the Netherlands will be on the outside of the front row.

No driver has repeated in the 500 since Al Unser won back-to-back races in 1970-71. Other winners of consecutive races were Wilbur Shaw in 1939-40, Mauri Rose in 1947-48 and Bill Vukovich in 1953-54.

"I think it is great," Fittipaldi said about the odds favouring him. "Now is the time to be a repeat winner."

He is teamed now with Mears and Danny Sullivan, also a former race champion.

In qualifying earlier this month, the two-time world champion set records for both one lap and four laps around the 2-1/2 mile (4 km) Indianapolis Motor Speedway Oval. His fastest single lap was 225.575 miles per hour (363.017 km) and his total average speed was 225.301 mph (362.576 km).

Mears, who set qualifying records the two previous years, wound up in an identical Penske Chevrolet. After qualifications, he ran the fastest laps with full fuel loads. He topped Thursday's final carburetion day runs with a lap at 222.750 mph (358.471 km).

Luyendyk, who got a Chevrolet for the first time this year, has been fast all month. He knocked 1986 winner Bobby Rahal off the front row with his qualification run.

Joining Rahal in the second row are two Andretti. Mario and son Michael, Mario, who won in 1969, will start his 25th race. All three will drive Lola-Chevys.

Al Unser Junior, whose tangle with Fittipaldi on lap 199 of last year's race created a dramatic finish, A.J. Foyt and 1985 winner Sullivan comprised the third row. Foyt has won four times and at 55 is starting his 33rd consecutive 500.

John Andretti and Teo Fabi will start in 10th and 23rd spots in March-Porsches, while Roberto Guerrero and Al Unser, the other four-time champion, drive March-Alfa Romeos in their first Indianapolis race.

Average speed of the field is 217.437 mph (349.921 km). Average age of the drivers is 36.7. There are 10 Chevrolet engines, 10 Buicks, six Cosworths, three Judds, two Porsches and two Alfa Romeos.



All the participants on the opening day.

Osama and Valisno move into early lead

THE Philippine Bowling Association in Kuwait (PBAK) held on Friday the 3rd Al Ghanim Open bowling tournament at the Holiday Inn bowling lanes.

The event, which is one of PBAK's major tournaments in its bowling calendar is being sponsored by Al Ghanim Freight.

Before the start of the actual competition, a brief opening ceremony, presided by former PBAK executive vice president Cora Paras was held.

Present during the opening rites were Mahmoud Jalajel, manager of Al Ghanim Freight, Dr. Dauday Tago, the minister-counselor and consul general of the Philippine mission in Kuwait, atty. Loy Cortel and Taha Guinomia, the legal officer and administrative officer respectively of the Philippine embassy.

Rico Pino of Al Ghanim Freight who is also the former pres. of PBAK and Ms Julie Dent, the recreational manager of Holiday Inn.

Consecutive

Welcome remarks were given by PBAK president Jimmy Tadana and Ms Julie Dent while atty. Cortel delivered an inspirational talk on behalf of the Philippine ambassador to Kuwait, Dr. Mayayag Mohamed Tamano. And to open the tournament proper, ceremonial balls were thrown by Dr. Tago, Mahmoud Jalajel and finally by Ms Julie Dent.

Shortly before the start of games, Rico Pino announced that Alba watches will be given to those bowlers who can roll five consecutive strikes in the mens' division and three consecutive strikes in the ladies group. The ladies namely Baby Penalosa, Cecil Valisno and Nitz Alinea wasted no time and collected the strikes needed to win the prize at stake while in the mens group only Bada Borja managed to string up five strikes, so two more watches are up for grabs in the mens' division.

As for the opening day leaders in the mens' division the top scorer was Osama with 1131 pin-falls, followed by Fahad Al Houbishi (1105), Bada Borja (1072), Vic Choong (1052) and ageless Wally Flores with 1040.

In the womens' division the early leaders were: Cecil Valisno (998), Vicky Mendoza (947), Corba Paras (942), Nitz Alinea (937) and Mercy Laborce with 884. The High Games were registered by Bada Borja with his impressive score of 247 pinfalls and by Cecil Valisno who got a 216.

The elimination round will go on until May 31 and game time is at 6:00 pm.

Due to further developments, the awarding for the Graded B and C and for the on going Al Ghanim Open will be held at the Messilah Beach at 6:00 pm and will coincide with the Pre-Independence Day celebrations

Mahmoud Jalajel throws the ceremonial ball.

being organised by the Philippine embassy.

And finally, all participating teams for the forthcoming PBAK-All Filipino Summer

League are reminded that opening day ceremonies will also be held at the Messilah Beach on June 8. For more information, consult the PBAK president.

SPORTS

Phoenix blaze their way past Portland

PHOENIX, May 26, (AP): The Phoenix Suns made sure the Portland Trail Blazers had no more comeback magic last night.

Tom Chambers scored 15 of his 24 points as the Suns built a 30-point lead in the first half and went on to beat the Trail Blazers 123-89, cutting their lead to 2-1 in

the Western Conference finals.

Phoenix, which blew a 22-point lead in Game 2 at Portland on Wednesday night, plays host again tomorrow in game 4 of the best-of-7 series.

The Suns took a first-quarter advantage of 40-18, the most opening-period points ever allowed by Portland in a

playoff game. Phoenix built 61-31 and 70-40 leads in the second period en route to a 71-43 halftime margin.

The Trail Blazers got no closer than 25 in the second half. The Suns' largest lead was 103-57 with 1:06 left in the third quarter, putting Portland in jeopardy of losing by the largest margin ever in an

NBA playoff game.

Minneapolis beat St. Louis 133-75 in 1956, but the Trail Blazers' reserves used an 18-0 run in the fourth period to make the final score more respectable.

It was Portland's worst playoff loss ever and the second-biggest postseason victory for Phoenix.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Alcohol ban

ROME, May 26, (Reuters): Italian authorities will ban sales of alcohol whenever they deem it necessary during the World Cup soccer finals starting in two weeks time. "It will be a total World Cup. A day without alcohol does everybody's health good," Interior Minister Antonio Gava said.

Herbin sacked

SAINT-ETIENNE, France, May 26, (Reuters): French soccer club Saint-Etienne have sacked coach Robert Herbin after a season of poor results, club sources said today. He will be replaced by his assistant, Christian Saragaglia.

Steeb injured

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 26, (Reuters): West German Davis Cup player Carl-Uwe Steeb may be forced to miss next week's French Open because of a shoulder injury.

Allocchio wins

MARINA DI PIETRASANTA, Italy, May 26, (UPI): Italian speed specialist Stefano Allocchio won the eighth stage of the 73rd Tour of Italy yesterday while Italian Gianni Bugno maintained his lead in overall standings.

Romania player

MADRID, May 26, (Reuters): Romanian midfielder George Hagi has signed a four-year contract with Real Madrid worth 300 million pesetas (\$3 million), Spanish newspapers reported today.

Golf courses

PALM SPRINGS, California, May 26, (UPI): Japanese companies have purchased two desert resort golf courses in separate deals totalling \$27 million, people involved in the transactions said yesterday. The two courses are the Rancho Mirage Country Club, which was purchased by real estate investment concern GGS, of Tokyo, for \$14 million; and the Desert Dunes Country Club, which was purchased by Hopyokudo California Ltd., an affiliate of Hopyokudo Co. Ltd. of Japan, for \$13 million.

Ritzman ahead

CORNING, New York, May 26, (Reuters): Alice Ritzman broke away from a logjam of six players with a 66 yesterday to take a two-stroke lead after the second round of the Corning Classic women's golf tournament.

Atlantic Classic

MARIETTA, Georgia, May 26, (Reuters): Larry Mize posted a three-under-par 69 to go with his first-day 66 to grab a one-stroke lead ahead of Howard Twitty after the second round of the million-dollar Atlantic Classic golf tournament yesterday.

Four-way lead

WENTWORTH, England, May 26, (Reuters): A last hole birdie earned Spaniard Jose Maria Olazabal a share of a four-way lead as he continued his superb form in the first round of the British PGA Golf Championship at Wentworth yesterday. Olazabal's late afternoon six-under-par 66 pulled him level with Eduardo Romero of Argentina, Tony Johnstone of Zimbabwe and Briton Paul Curry at the head of the 144-man field.

Three-day match

MANCHESTER, England, May 26, (Reuters): Zimbabwe's three-day cricket match against Lancashire ended in a draw yesterday. Scores: Lancashire 326 for six declared and 310 for three declared (S. Titchard 80, J. Crawley 76 not out, G. Lloyd 76, N. Speak 74); Zimbabwe 376 for six declared and 78 for two (W. James 52).

W. German manager

FRANKFURT, West Germany, May 26, (AP): West German soccer manager Franz Beckenbauer yesterday chided some of his players after they had criticised his lineup for a World Cup warmup match against Czechoslovakia.

English fans

SPOLETO, Italy, May 26, (Reuters): Two English soccer fans in Italy for next month's World Cup will be deported for kicking and punching railway police while drunk, police said yesterday. The two 23-year-olds, both Liverpool fans, received a six-month suspended sentence from a court in Spoleto, north of Rome, and will be expelled in the next few days.

Women's tennis

STRASBOURG, France, May 26, (Reuters): Semifinal results in the \$150,000 women's tennis tournament (premier number-one seed) Mercedes Paz (Argentina) beat Karine Quentrec (France) 6-1, 6-1. Ann Grossman (US) beat 3-Manon Bollegraf (Netherlands) 2-6, 6-0, 6-2.

Gullit 'fit'

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands, May 26, (AP): Dutch newspaper yesterday pronounced soccer Ruud Gullit "ready for the World Cup" after his role in AC Milan's victory in the European Champion's Cup. AC Milan's 1-0 win against Benfica on Wednesday marked Gullit's second full match since recovering from a series of operations on his right knee.

Giants tame Pirates

Reds blank Expos



Reds' Jack Armstrong during his bid to become NL's first eight-game winner. (Reuter wirephoto)

PITTSBURGH, May 26, (AP): Kevin Mitchell hit three home runs in a game for the first time in his career and drove in five runs as the San Francisco Giants overpowered Pittsburgh 9-8 in a National League baseball game last night to knock the Pirates out of first place.

Mitchell, who led the Majors with 47 homers last season, raised his season total to 11 homers and 20 RBIs. His second home run came off Bob Kipper with two men on in the fifth and gave the Giants a 7-1 lead.

After the Pirates scored four runs in the sixth to get within two, Mitchell hit a solo home run off Bob Patterson in the seventh.

The last Giants player to hit three home runs in a game was Darrell Evans, against Houston on June 15, 1983.

Steve Bedrosian came on in the ninth and gave up a long home run to Bobby Bonilla with one out. The Pirates then put runners on first and third with one out but Jeff Brantley relieved and retired the side for his fourth save.

Mitchell, Will Clark and Jose Uribe all hit home runs in the first four innings off starter Walt Terrell (1-4).

The Pirates have lost eight of their last 10 games to fall one-half game behind Philadelphia in the National League East.

Reds 5, Expos 0

Jack Armstrong allowed three hits in eight innings to become the NL's first eight-game winner as Cincinnati beat Montreal.

Armstrong dropped his league-leading ERA to 1.61, struck out seven and walked none. Randy Myers got the last three outs, allowing one hit, for the Reds' sixth shutout of the season.

The only other eight-game winner in baseball is Oakland's Dave Stewart.

Armstrong (8-1) beat St. Louis 4-0 on May 19 and has pitched 22 consecutive scoreless innings.

Eric Davis snapped a scoreless tie with an RBI single in the sixth.

Results	
American League	
2 Chicago	1
16 Boston	0
6 Kansas City	3
12 Texas	2
5 Milwaukee	4
3 Cleveland	2
3 Seattle	1
National League	
5 Cincinnati	0
5 San Diego	4
5 Philadelphia	4
9 San Francisco	8
4 Los Angeles	1
AT Chicago Cubs	(PPD)

Prpic thrashes Edberg

DUESSELDORF, West Germany, May 26, (Reuters): Stefan Edberg, losing finalist in Paris last year, suffered a further setback in his build-up for next week's French Open tennis championships when he was convincingly beaten at the World Team Cup today.

Yugoslav world number 29 Goran Prpic devastated Edberg—ranked world number two—6-1 6-4 in just 66 minutes.

The result steered Yugoslavia to a surprise 2-1 victory over Sweden and a place in tomorrow's final against the United States.

The Yugoslavs have now won all three of their matches and top Group Two of the eight-team round-robin event which many leading players traditionally use as a vital competitive practice on clay in the final run-up to Roland Garros.

After losing the first singles rubber against the touted Swedes, when Magnus Gustafsson beat Goran Ivanisevic 6-4 6-2, Yugoslavias sealed the tie when Prpic teamed up with Ivanisevic to sweep aside Edberg and Gustafsson 6-4 6-2 in the deciding doubles.

Edberg is the number one seed at the Paris Grand Slam event. But after disappointing early exits in events in Monte Carlo and Munich in the last month, he has won just one of his three matches here, losing 3-6 6-2 6-4 to Argentine Martin Jaite two days ago.

"I won all my matches here last year and that gave me a lot of confidence for Paris," Edberg said. "But after Monte Carlo and Munich and just one victory here it is obviously going to be a bit more difficult this year."



Bouali (left) shakes hands with Downes. (Reuter wirephoto)

Fight cancelled

TUNIS, May 26, (Reuters): Tunisian super-featherweight boxer Kamal Bouali angrily cancelled a fight to defend his world title last night because the promoter failed to raise his fee.

"I will enter the ring when I get a certified cheque for the \$100,000 contracted with the organisers," he said in his dressing room after refusing to meet Tyrone Downes of Barbados.

About 1,000 spectators had waited more than three hours for the WBO (World Boxing Organisation) bout to start at the sports palace in Tunis.

Bouali won the world super featherweight WBO title by beating Antonio Rivera on December 9.

Gardner not convinced by FIM action

NUERBURGRING, West Germany, May 26, (Reuters): Injured former world champion Wayne Gardner recognised yesterday that his hopes of regaining the world 500 cc title had vanished—just as motorcycling's ruling body acted to make Grand Prix bikes safer and cheaper.

But the Australian, who has campaigned for speed reductions for greater safety, declared he was not convinced by the International Motorcycling Federation (FIM) measures.

The FIM announced it was revising weights for 500 cc Grand Prix bikes next season and lowering fuel octane levels.

The FIM management council said the frequency of accidents in 500 cc races, and the cost of competitive factory machines was worrying as was the number of entries in these events.

FIM Secretary-General Guy Maitre said safety and costs were the main factors involved. "The ratio between power and weight will certainly be safer," he said.

"There has been a terrible increase in the cost of racing in the last few years. We think it is now time to take measures to lower costs, and also to make racing more safe," he said.

England Cup squad arrive in Sardinia

CAGLIARI, Sardinia, May 26, (Reuters): England's World Cup soccer squad, with Bobby Robson embarking on his last venture as national manager, arrived in Sardinia yesterday.

About 200 police were on duty for the arrival of the squad, accompanied by the players' wives and girlfriends.

The plane, a Boeing 707 named Sir Stanley Matthews after the legendary England player, arrived late in the capital Cagliari after a 45 minute delay in leaving Luton airport.

The squad, flanked by a five-car police convoy, then travelled by bus to their hotel at Pula, 40 km from Cagliari.

"We came here early because it's important to us to have quiet for our preparation and the hotel we have chosen guarantees maximum calm," Robson told reporters on arrival.

"We want to be the people's team. From what I have experienced from previous visits, I'm sure our stay here will be a pleasant and happy one."

England face the Netherlands, Ireland and Egypt in Group F of the 24-nation tournament starting in two weeks' time.

Robson announced on Thursday he was leaving his last England job he has held for

eight years after the World Cup finals to take over as manager of Dutch side PSV Eindhoven.

PSV manager Kees Ploegman told Reuters Robson had signed a two-year contract from July 15 but he gave no financial details.

"He said Robson was PSV's favourite to succeed Guus Hiddink, who moves to Fenerbahce Istanbul after almost four years at PSV."

"We wanted Hiddink's successor to be a man of experience and capable of maintaining discipline in the group," he said.

"We felt he was the right man for us because of his record, the contact we had with him and many other reasons... we'll see how it goes."

Graham Taylor, manager of First Division runners-up Aston Villa, is considered favourite to succeed Robson.

Tottenham manager Terry Venables is also a contender but Howard Kendall, in charge of Manchester City and tipped at 1-1 for the job, ruled himself out on Friday.

"I have decided that, although it would be a tremendous honour, I must stay with City," Kendall said. "I have a task to complete at City and I intend to stay and do it."

Robson said his decision to



Robson: last event as England boss

quit was meant to have been announced simultaneously in Cagliari and Eindhoven on Monday.

"Instead, the way the news came out shocked everyone," he said.

Some popular English news-

papers said Robson offered to

quit before the World Cup finals starting in two weeks' time

because a book about to be published contained allegations about his private life.

Robson, who denied the allegations, said he would not have quit the England team before the World Cup.



Senna and his team check the McLaren Honda. (Reuter wirephoto)

Senna claims 45th pole

MONTE CARLO, May 26, (Reuters): Ayrton Senna enthralled a packed and appreciative crowd today when he spoke his own qualifying lap record again and claimed pole position for tomorrow's Monaco Grand Prix motor race.

The 30-year-old Brazilian threaded his McLaren round the twisting hills and dips of the 3.328-kms street circuit in a time of one minute and 21.314 seconds to improve on his previous record, set on Thursday, by four-tenths of a second.

It was another electrifying performance by Senna and secured for him the 45th pole position of his career and his third in succession in his adopted European home in the Mediterranean principality.

But the Brazilian will share the front row of the grid for tomorrow's race with his great rival and former McLaren teammate, world champion Alain Prost.

The Frenchman, seeking a victory to equal Briton Graham Hill's record of five Monaco triumphs, improved considerably on his time in Thursday's opening qualifying session by clocking a best of 1:21.776 in his Ferrari, powered by the Italian

team's latest specification V-12 engine for the first time.

His compatriot Jean Alesi, tipped by many as a future world champion, worked very hard to improve, but finally had to settle for the third-fastest time and a spot on the second row.

He will share the second row with Italian Riccardo Patrese, the winner of the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola two weeks ago.

Austrian Gerhard Berger, in the second McLaren, was fifth

quickest and shares the third row of the grid with Belgian Thierry Boutsen, in the second Williams.

British Nigel Mansell managed to improve his time like virtually every other driver but not enough to gain anything better than seventh-quickest time and he will share the fourth row of the grid with Italian Pierluigi Martini's Minardi.

Senna said: "We did enough to get the job done. Every lap I rap was good enough for pole position, but I had traffic on my best lap."



The front portion of Alesi's Tyrrell Ford touches the track and makes sparks. (Reuter wirephoto)

Ballesteros unhappy over Cup decision

WENTWORTH, England, May 26, (Reuters): Seve Ballesteros said yesterday he felt very disillusioned by the decision to stage the 1993 Ryder Cup golf match at the Belfry in England rather than at a course in Madrid.

The Spaniard has campaigned vigorously for the 1993 event to be awarded to the Club de Campo in Madrid. But the British PGA announced on Thursday that it would be staged for the third time at the Belfry, though it would be played in Spain in 1997.

Ballesteros said in a statement from his home: "At this very moment I feel very disillusioned (by the decision) and as I have said in the past, my motivations as a player will not be the same."

"I feel very sorry for Spain and Spanish golf because I think they deserved better than this."

Ballesteros has said in recent weeks he felt it important for the event to be staged in Spain in 1993 because of the contribution made by Spanish players in the biennial Europe-United States match.

The Ryder Cup was played at the Belfry in 1985 and 1989. Europe wrested it from the United States in 1985, kept it by winning again in America in 1987 and retained it after a 14-14 tie last year.

Ballesteros's partner in the last two Cup events, compatriot Jose Maria Olazabal, said the decision was good for all parties.

Headed that he was not worried about Ballesteros's commitment at future Ryder Cups.

"I won't have to ask him for 100 per cent commitment because I know him. I know he gives 110 per cent every time he is on the golf course. He wants to kill everybody," Olazabal said.

Marseille out of Cup

MARSEILLE, France, May 26, (Reuters): Racing Paris, relegated to the French Second Division last week, denied Marseille a second consecutive soccer double on Friday with a 3-2 Cup semifinal victory.

Racing, who finished 19th in the French League last Saturday as Marseille celebrated their second title, will meet Montpellier in the final on June 2 at Parc des Princes.

Montpellier beat St Etienne 1-0 Thursday's other semifinal through a Eric Cantona goal.

Marseille took the lead in the third minute when Bruno German headed a free kick from England World Cup winger Chris Waddle into the net.

Moroccan Aziz Bouderbala equalised three minutes before the interval to tie the scores at halftime.

Marseille seemed to clinch the match after 60 minutes when Frank Sauzet scored from 30 metres.

But two goals in the final 10 minutes by Michel Milojkovic and Abdeljalil Aid gave Racing Paris victory.

Valencia hold Argentina

VALENCIA, Spain, May 26, (Reuters): A disappointing Argentine side drew 1-1 with Spanish First Division runners-up Valencia last night in their last warm-up match before the World Cup in Italy next month.

The world champions let Valencia attack without reacting in the first half and the Spanish side had three goal opportunities before their promising young striker Enrique Cuchart scored in the 39th minute.

Cuchart, who had already put Argentine goalkeeper Pumpido to work in the 25th minute, slotted the ball home after a mistake from Real Madrid's Argentine back Alfredo Rengier.

A 23-year-old from the reserves, Cuchart earlier this month gave Valencia second place in the Spanish League with a stunning 15-minute hat-trick debut on the last day of the season.

Argentine coach Carlos Bilardo launched his men on the attack in the second half and De Zotti, set up by Diego Maradona, headed the equalizer in the 48th minute.

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